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The Truth Speaks

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MOJTABA SUCCEEDS SLAIN FATHER AS IRAN'S SUPREME LEADER

The choice signals hardliners firmly in charge; loyalists take to the streets in support of new leader

TEHRAN

Iran on Monday named Mojtaba Khamenei to succeed his slain father, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, as supreme leader on Monday, signalling that hardliners remain firmly in charge and appearing to close off any path to a swift end to war in the Middle East.

As per a statement by the Assembly of Experts, an 88-member clerical body tasked with selecting the supreme leader, Mojtaba was bestowed with the power of leading the war-torn nation and given the title of Supreme Leader on March 8.

"Mojtaba Khamenei (56) is appointed and introduced as the third leader of the sacred system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, based on the decisive vote of the respected representatives of the Assembly of Experts," the clerical body stated.

It said that the institution "did not hesitate for a minute" in choosing a new leader, despite "the brutal aggression of the criminal America and the evil Zionist regime".

Mojtaba, a mid-ranking cleric with close ties to the powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), had long been viewed by elements of Iran's ruling establishment as a potential successor to his father, who was killed in the US-Israel air strike on Iran on February 28. IRGC pledged allegiance on Sunday to the country's new supreme leader.

"The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps... is ready for complete obedience and self-sacrifice in carrying out the divine commands of the Guardian Jurist of the time, His Eminence Ayatollah Seyyed Mojtaba Khamenei", the Guards said in a statement.

Born on September 8, 1969 in Mashhad, Mojtaba is the second son of the late supreme leader Khamenei. While the 56-year-old Shiite cleric has largely kept a low profile and has never held public office, he is known to have considerable clout within Iran's complex power structure, particularly the IRGC. He is seen as a continuation of his father's legacy and hardline rule.

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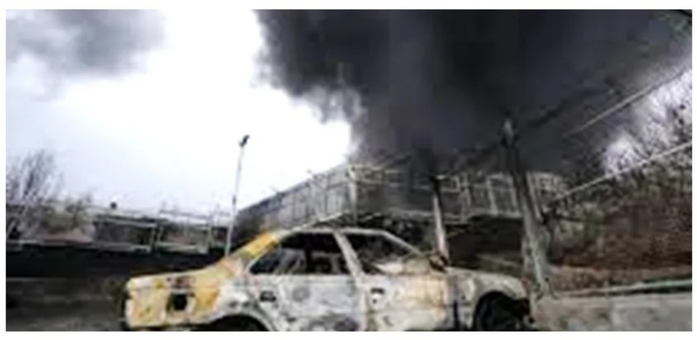
In Mojtaba's honour: Iran fires 3 deadliest missiles painted with 'Panic in Israel'

After Mojtaba formally took charge as new supreme leader, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps marked the transition by firing its three deadliest missiles, signalling a ruthless show of loyalty and strength. In footage, one of the missiles was seen bearing the slogan "At your service, Mojtaba" and "Panic in Israel". Tension gripped parts of Israel as these missiles flew in massive waves shortly after Mojtaba's elevation, with sirens blaring and residents scrambling into shelters. Khamenei Jr.'s rise and Iran's decision to escalate the war on multiple fronts.



Israel launches 'wide-scale' strikes across Tehran

JERUSALEM

As Iran's Assembly of Experts officially appointed Mojtaba Khamenei as the country's third Supreme Leader, the Israeli military on Monday launched a "wide-scale" strikes on Tehran, Isfahan and southern Iran. "The IDF has just begun a wide-scale wave of strikes against the infrastructure of the Iranian terror regime across Tehran, Isfahan, and southern Iran," the military said in a statement.

Amid the strikes, thousands of people gathered at Tehran's Enghelab Square to pledge allegiance to Mojtaba.

Tensions across the region has intensified as several countries reported intercepting Iranian missiles. Turkey and the United Arab Emirates said they successfully intercepted missiles launched by Iran, while Qatar also confirmed an interception.

Israel said it was carrying out fresh military strikes on three areas in Iran.

New wave of Iranian missiles, drones target Gulf nations

Iranian missiles and drones continue to target Gulf, with Bahrain's state oil company declaring force majeure on Monday for its shipments after its refinery caught fire in an Iranian attack. Gulf airspace has been shut and oil production and supply disrupted after Iran targeted US assets in Gulf countries in retaliatory attacks.

'Iran sought nod for 3 ships to dock in Indian ports'

NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar amid tensions in the Indian Ocean region following sinking of an Iranian warship by the US last week said on Monday that Iran had sought India's permission for three of its ships to dock at Indian ports and the approval was granted the next day.

Jaishankar in a statement while speaking in Parliament, said that one Iranian vessel, IRIS LAVAN, docked in Kochi on March 4.

He said, "The Iranian side has requested permission on February 28 for three ships in the region to dock at our ports. This was accorded on March 1. IRIS LAVAN actually docked on March 4 in Kochi. The crew is currently in Indian naval facilities."

"We believe that this was the right thing to do and the Iranian foreign minister has expressed his country's thanks for the humane gesture," he said.

Oil tops $100/barrel for first time since 2022

DUBAI

The global benchmark oil price has climbed above $100 a barrel for the first time since 2022 as the escalating conflict involving Iran, Israel and the US continues to unsettle global markets for the straight 10th day.

The sharp rise in oil prices comes as G7 finance ministers convene an emergency meeting to discuss the economic consequences of the Middle East tension and its growing risks to global energy supplies.

The surge in prices reflects mounting fears that the war could significantly disrupt energy flows from the Middle East, particularly shipments passing through the Strait of Hormuz, a vital route that carries about a fifth of the world's oil supply.

Brent crude crossed the $100 threshold on Monday, marking the first time the benchmark has reached that level since 2022, when energy markets were shaken by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

US President Donald Trump described oil price surge as "short term" and a "a very small price to pay" for world peace. UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer said, "The longer the war goes on, the more likely the potential for an impact on our economy" - and that he's working to minimise the effects on UK businesses.

Petrol, diesel price hike unlikely unless crude breaches $130: Govt

New Delhi: The adverse effects of the West Asian conflict can be felt in many parts of the world as the war has left the price of oil soaring in its wake. However, the government of India has laid common man's fears to rest and assured there are no plans to raise the retail prices for gasoline and diesel as of now. As per government sources, India is not planning to release oil reserves in coordination with the International Energy Agency. "Unless crude oil prices breach $130, petrol-diesel prices are unlikely to increase. The government expects crude oil prices to be hover around $100 per barrel," they stated. They reassured that there is no problem of shortage of petrol and diesel at any pump in the country and they have also accelerated crude sourcing from routes outside the Strait of Hormuz. Moreover, India has enough stock of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) and is a producer and exporter of ATF (Aviation Turbine Fuel). "India is better placed than other countries. Many countries have approached India for taking stock," the sources said. "In a bid to stop hoarding and black marketing, LPG booking period has been increased from 21 to 25 days. There were instances where people who were earlier booking LPG cylinders in 55 Days has started booking LPG cylinders in 15 days," sources said. The government has reportedly ordered refineries to boost LPG output and give priority to domestic LPG over commercial connections. Moreover, countries like Algeria, Australia, Canada, Norway have approached to sell LPG.

IN A NUTSHELL

- Petrol and diesel prices in India are unlikely to rise unless global crude oil prices cross $130 per barrel.
- There is no fuel shortage and India has adequate petrol, diesel and ATF stocks, say officials.
- LPG booking intervals have been increased to 25 days to prevent hoarding and ensure a stable domestic supply.
- Domestic LPG to be prioritised; Iran sought permission to dock 3 ships in Indian ports.
- Iran names Khamenei's successor: Iran's ruling clerics have appointed slain leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's son, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, as the country's new supreme leader, defying threats from Israel and the US.
- China opposes targeting of new supreme leader: China stated it opposes any targeting of Iran's new supreme leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, after the Israeli military threatened to target any successor to his slain father, Ali Khamenei.
- Gulf countries report fresh attacks: Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Kuwait all reported new attacks. Saudi reported two deaths from a "projectile" attack.

'India world's 2nd largest arms buyer'

NEW DELHI

War-torn Ukraine leads the list; India's arms imports are driven by its tensions with China and Pakistan, reveals the report.

India continues to rank among the world's top arms importers, emerging as the second-largest importer of major weapons with an 8.2% share of global arms imports, according to a latest data released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on 'Trends in International Arms Transfers'.

As per the report, India remains the world's second-largest arms importer, after war-torn Ukraine with a 9.7% share, and the only major economy importing weapons on such a scale.

Although India continues to modernise its military capabilities amid evolving regional and global security challenges, the latest data also reflect a gradual decline in defence imports and rise in domestic and indigenous production.

According to the think tank, Russia, France and Israel remain India's top arms suppliers, accounting for 40%, 29% and 15% of its imports respectively.

As per the data, India accounted for 8.3% of global arms imports between 2021 and 2025, placing it second worldwide. Ukraine, currently engaged in a war with Russia, topped the list with a 9.7% share during the same period.

Between 2019 and 2023, India accounted for around 9.8% of global arms imports, placing it at the top of the list. However, the share has fallen to about 8.3% during 2021-2025.

The findings, released on Monday in SIPRI's report Trends in International Arms Transfers, 2025, also indicate a modest reduction in India's reliance on imported weapons. Comparing the previous five-year period of 2016–2020 with 2021–2025, the report noted that Indian arms imports declined by 4%.

The report attributes the decline partly to India's growing ability to design and manufacture its own weapons systems, although domestic programmes often face significant delays.

"Indian arms imports fell by 4.0% between 2016–20 and 2021–25. The decrease can be partly attributed to India's growing ability to design and produce its own weapons, although there are often substantial delays in domestic production," the report said.

However, SIPRI noted that India continues to rely heavily on foreign suppliers for several key military platforms.

"India's recent or planned orders, including up to 140 combat aircraft from France and six submarines from Germany, indicate its continued and probably increasing reliance on foreign suppliers," the report said.

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Delhi riots case: Sharjeel gets 10-day interim bail

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court granted 10-day interim bail to Sharjeel Imam in Delhi riots case. The Supreme Court had earlier this month granted bail to five accused in the riots case in relation to a larger conspiracy case but denied the same to Sharjeel Imam and Umar Khalid.

Additional Sessions Judge Sameer Bajpai was hearing the interim bail application filed by Imam, seeking relief for six weeks to attend the marriage scheduled this month.

In an order, the court granted interim bail from March 20 to 30. Imam is an accused in the case pertaining to the February 2020 riots in northeast Delhi that left 53 people dead and more than 700 injured. The violence erupted during the widespread protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

The Supreme Court, however, denied relief to activists Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam, saying all the accused in the case did not stand on the same footing.

QUICK READ

'Won't rejoin BJP...my JCB Party will romp home'

NEW DELHI: Expelled BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal on Monday ruled out rejoining the saffron party as long as what he termed a "corrupt family" continues to lead the party in Karnataka. Former union minister also announced that his yet-to-be-launched JCB Party will come to power in the state, and he will become the next chief minister. Speaking to reporters, he said he had not come to the national capital to meet BJP leaders. A staunch critic of former Yediyurappa, he alleged that the BJP leadership in Karnataka was centered around the Yediyurappa family.

After Birla, Gyanesh? Oppn for CEC's removal

NEW DELHI: The I.N.D.I.A bloc is planning to submit an impeachment notice against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in Parliament in the next few days, as the Trinamool Congress is upping the ante against the poll body chief over Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The prime mover of the notice is Trinamool Congress whose supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is on a protest from March 6 against the deletion of voters from electoral rolls after the contentious SIR. Upping the ante, TMC MPs also submitted notices.

SUCCESSION SIGNAL

DKS marks 6 years as KPCC chief, bats for fresh face

BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday completed six years in office as the president of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC).

Reflecting on his tenure, Shivakumar said, "Six years is enough for me," emphasizing the need for a fresh face to lead the party in Karnataka and new ideas within the party.

In response to queries about surpassing the 10-year KPCC tenure of Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara, he said, "In order to make way for fresh faces, it is important to relinquish the post." On his next role, he remained non-committal, saying, "Will let you know."

Shivakumar, a veteran Congress leader, stressed the importance of generational change, noting that he, Parameshwara, HK Patil, and Ramalinga Reddy became ministers after their first MLA term. "We are seniors now. Let new leaders emerge," he said.

Shivakumar is hosting a dinner for his party legislators on Tuesday to mark his six-year tenure, which began in 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, replacing Dinesh Gundu Rao. Despite signaling his exit as KPCC chief, he has assured that he will remain active in the "frontline leadership" of the party.

The anniversary comes amidst intense, renewed speculation about a potential change of guard in state leadership. However, Shivakumar reiterated his commitment to patience and party discipline, dismissing talk of any internal revolt or "Kranti."

He clarified that discussions about the CM post are strictly between him, CM Siddaramaiah, and the party high command, emphasizing that his focus has always been on strengthening the party, not personal power struggles.

On allegations of phone tapping and political monitoring, he said he was unaware of the same, pointing out that the issue had been addressed by the Chief Minister and Home Minister.

Reaffirming his bond with Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar described their relationship as "milk and honey", and reiterated that he knows how to fight but never for power within the party.

Shivakumar's remarks signal his intention to step aside gracefully, ensuring opportunities for younger leaders while consolidating his image as a disciplined and pragmatic party veteran.

Trailblazing Women Felicitated at Brahma Kumaris Women's Day Programme

Mangaluru's Brahma Kumaris centre paid tribute to accomplished women leaders on March 8, stressing confidence, education, Rajayoga meditation, and women's natural qualities in fostering peaceful societies and national progress.

MANGALURU

Mangaluru came alive with celebrations for International Women's Day at the Brahma Kumaris service centre in Urwa Stores, where the focus centred on igniting women's inner potential, encouraging lives guided by strong principles, and underscoring their indispensable role in constructing a balanced society.

Organisers took the opportunity to pay heartfelt tributes to several women who have excelled in different walks of life. The distinguished recipients included Mamatha Gatti, serving as Chairperson and Director of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation; Akshata Kuppagal, holding the positions of Deputy Commissioner for Revenue

and Chief Financial Officer at Mangaluru Smart City Limited; Naina Pai, a respected advocate at the Mangaluru District Court; and Jyothi, the District Health Education Officer for Dakshina Kannada.

While accepting the recognition, Mamatha Gatti shared her view that women who embrace self-confidence, boldness, and a principled approach to life can make profound positive differences in advancing both household well-being and societal growth.

Akshata Kuppagal, present as a special guest, observed that the rising participation of women in high-level administrative positions clearly signals broader societal improvement. She firmly believed that women armed with solid education and moral foundations can serve as a tremendous driving force for the nation's advancement.

Naina Pai emphasised the need for women to stay mindful of their rights alongside their duties, motivating them to take proactive steps in promoting fairness and equality within communities.

Jyothi explained that education forms the very base for empowering women. She urged female students to hone their innate abilities and emerge as shining examples for everyone around them.

Special congratulations went to promising young talent Vrinda G. Rao, acknowledged for displaying her diverse skills across numerous fields.

On behalf of the Brahma Kumaris, Brahmakumari Vishveshwari described how women are inherently gifted with attributes like peacefulness, affection, empathy, and patience. She added that deepening these through regular Rajayoga meditation empowers women to become vital architects of strong families, united communities, and a thriving country.

The programme included a practical Rajayoga meditation session conducted by Brahmakumari Vishveshwari, who elaborated on its benefits—bringing serenity to the mind, strengthening self-assurance, and nurturing uplifting thoughts.

Many prominent figures and community members attended the gathering, where everyone reflected together on the immense power and significance of women.

United Action Essential to Combat Rising Violence Against Women: Shahida Tasneem

MANGALURU

At a thought-provoking seminar organised by Women India Movement's Mangaluru Rural district committee on International Women's Day, speakers called for collective resistance against atrocities on women and stressed education's role in empowerment.

B.C. Road witnessed a dedicated discussion forum on International Women's Day, hosted by the Mangaluru Rural District Committee of Women India Movement (WIM), bringing together voices to address pressing challenges faced by women today.

Shinir, who serves as the President of WIM's Mangaluru Rural District Committee, presided over the proceedings.

Delivering the keynote address, Shahida Tasneem, National General Secretary of Women India Movement, expressed deep concern about the current situation regarding women's status and security across India. She strongly asserted that the ongoing atrocities directed at women demand a well-coordinated and organised struggle without delay.

Chief guest Baraka P.U., along with degree college lecturer Dr. Nushrat, spoke about the critical importance of women's education and the responsibilities women hold in driving social change and progress.

On this occasion, Zeenath Goodinabali, a member of SDPI's Mangaluru Rural District Committee, raised awareness about SIR.

Fatima Nusaiba extended a warm welcome with her introductory remarks. Zubaidha from Panemangaluru proposed the vote of thanks. District committee member Gausiya efficiently compered the entire programme.

QUICK READ

Police Seek Information on Missing Woman

Mangaluru

Police have registered a missing case after an 18-year-old woman failed to return home after leaving for work on March 6. Sapna, who was staying in a rented house belonging to Lokanath at Thota Bengre, had gone to work at a mart in the port area but did not return, according to a complaint filed at Panambur police station. She is about 4.8 feet tall, has a dark complexion and a round build. At the time she went missing she was wearing a white netted churidar and blue jeans. She speaks Hindi and Bhojpuri. Police have requested the public to contact Panambur police station if they have any information about her whereabouts.

Man Reported Missing from Mulki

Mangaluru

A 38-year-old man has been reported missing after he failed to return home after leaving for work on March 2. Sachin Anchan, who worked at Surf Brothers surf school in Chitrapu village, has been missing since that day. A case has been registered at Mulki police station. He is about 5.10 feet tall with a wheatish complexion and medium build. He has a black mole near his left eye and another on the side of his neck. At the time he went missing he was wearing a blue bermuda and a green T-shirt. He speaks Kannada, Tulu and Hindi. Police have appealed to the public to contact Mulki police station if they have any information.

PUC Examination Attendance Details Released

Mangaluru

The Department of Pre-University Education has released attendance details for the II PUC examinations held on Monday. According to the department, 18,426 students appeared for the Chemistry examination while 55 were absent. In the Basic Mathematics examination, 537 students appeared and one was absent. For the Education subject examination, two registered candidates were absent, the Deputy Director of the Pre-University Education Department said in a release.

Fugitive Evading Court for 6 Years Arrested in Tumakuru District

MANGALURU

Police have arrested an individual who had been on the run for the past six years, deliberately avoiding court proceedings in a theft-related case.

The arrest pertains to Crime No. 91/2017 registered at Dharmasthala Police Station under Section 380 of the Indian Penal Code. The accused, Venkatesh alias Dabar Venkatesh, a resident of Kumbalagodu in Bengaluru, had been evading judicial summons and hearings for approximately six years.

Acting on specific leads, personnel from Dharmasthala Police Station—namely Rishab and Charan Raj—traced the suspect to Tipatur in Tumakuru district. They successfully took him into custody from that location.

Following the arrest, the police produced the accused before the concerned magistrate as required by law.

Stray Bulls Clash in Kukke Subrahmanya: Woman and Child Injured After Falling

SUBRAHMANYA

A clash between two bulls in Kukke Subrahmanya led to a woman and her young child falling and getting hurt on Sunday evening (March 8). The incident unfolded in the temple's Rathabeedi area when the two bulls got into a heated fight.

As people nearby tried to separate them, the agitated animals bolted through the crowd of devotees moving along the street. In the sudden rush, the woman and child lost their balance, tripped, and fell to the ground. Both victims suffered only minor injuries.

Onlookers quickly helped them up and provided immediate assistance at the spot. A video capturing the chaotic moment has since gone viral on social media platforms.

For quite some time, residents and pilgrims in Kukke Subrahmanya have been facing increasing difficulties due to the growing presence of stray cattle and street dogs. These animals wander unchecked, creating safety hazards and inconvenience for the public and temple visitors alike.

Despite repeated appeals to the concerned authorities to take firm steps, locals claim no effective measures have been implemented so far. Following this latest mishap, people are strongly urging the administration to impose proper controls without further delay to prevent such incidents and ensure safer surroundings in the temple town.

Explosives Case: 51-Year-Old Man Arrested by Vittla Police

VITTLA

Vittla police have arrested a 51-year-old resident in connection with a case involving possession of explosives and related offences. The accused, Abdul Gafur (51), hails from Mudnoor village in Bantwal taluk.

He stands charged in Crime No. 58/2026 registered at Vittla Police Station under Section 9B of the Explosives Act 1884, Section 5 of the Explosives Substances Act, and Section 288 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Following his arrest, police produced the accused before the competent court on March 7, 2026. The honourable court, after hearing the matter, ordered judicial remand for the accused. The investigation into the case is ongoing under the supervision of Vittla police.

Wild Elephant Herd Raids Farms in Charmadi: Over 20 Arecanut Trees Damaged

BELTHANGADY

A herd of wild elephants launched an attack on agricultural plantations in the Kodimane area of Charmadi village late Saturday night, inflicting heavy damage on standing crops and trees. The elephants targeted the estates belonging to local residents Ajesh, Veena A.S., Avvamma, and others.

They uprooted and damaged more than 20 arecanut palms, two coconut trees, along with various other plants and bushes in the vicinity. Smaller arecanut saplings in the paths traversed by the herd also suffered considerable harm.

Adding to the residents' distress, the same group of elephants ventured close to a house premises. CCTV footage from the property clearly recorded the herd's movement. Around 2 a.m., four elephants—including one calf—were seen circling the house compound, creating significant anxiety for the family members inside.

International Women's Day Observed at Pilikula

MANGALURU

International Women's Day was celebrated at the Pilikula Regional Science Centre on March 8 in a programme jointly organised by the Pilikula Development Authority and the District Legal Services Authority, with the support of Dharmjyothi Seva Institution, Vamanjoor.

The event was inaugurated by Zaibunnisa, Member Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority. She said that in the past women were confined to limited roles, but today the situation has changed and women are able to exercise their rights throughout the year.

She pointed out that women have equal rights to ancestral property and encouraged them to strive for success through their own efforts. She also urged people to make full use of free legal services offered by the District Legal Services Authority and the various helplines for women and children.

Committee member of the Pilikula district-level authority N.G. Mohan said girls in the district are increasingly aware of their rights and stressed the importance of ensuring education for all.

Director of the Pilikula Regional Science Centre Dr. Ashok K.R. said women play a vital role in family life and society by taking timely decisions in domestic matters and nurturing relationships with patience and understanding.

On the occasion, women sanitation workers of the Pilikula Development Authority were felicitated.

Brain Drain a Concern, Says ZP Official

MANGALURU

Despite Dakshina Kannada district maintaining a strong academic record, many talented youth are migrating to other states and abroad in search of better career opportunities, resulting in a shortage of skilled candidates for local jobs, said Zilla Panchayat Deputy Secretary Jayalakshmi.

She was speaking at a meeting held at the ZP Nethravathi hall on Monday to prepare the District Skill Development Plan. Referring to the recently announced Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) results for the selection of IAS and IPS officers, she noted that no candidate from Dakshina Kannada — which consistently ranks first in SSLC and PUC results in the state — figured among the successful candidates. In contrast, four candidates from Yadgir district, which often ranks last in SSLC and PUC results, secured top positions. "This calls for introspection," she said.

Nodal officer for the district skill development plan and senior lecturer at KPT, Harish C.P., said the main objective of the plan is to ensure that educational institutions in the district produce manpower with skills required by industries and enterprises expected to generate employment over the next five years.

He said the district's higher education institutions, polytechnics, ITIs and KGTTI will be encouraged to create a skilled workforce by aligning courses with industry needs. Inputs from industries will be taken to ensure appropriate human resource development.

Although the district offers training in 22 trades in ITIs, 10 disciplines in polytechnics and two courses in GTTC, industries have reported that qualified candidates are still not available despite high demand for skilled jobs, he added.

President of the Canara Small Industries Association M.D. Poojary stressed that institutions must focus on ensuring suitable employment opportunities for students completing ITI, diploma and other technical courses. He expressed concern that many such graduates are opting for delivery jobs and other sectors unrelated to their training.

Urban Planning Director Dr Santosh Kumar, Joint Director of Industries Gokuldas Nayak and NITK lecturer Prof Uday Bhat were among those present. District Skill Development Officer Pradeep D'Souza welcomed the gathering.

Applications Invited for KAS Interview Training for Minorities

MANGALURU

The Department of Minority Welfare has invited online applications for residential coaching for the Karnataka Administrative Service (KAS) interview. Candidates from Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh and Parsi communities who cleared the 2023–24 KAS main examination are eligible. The coaching will be held at Haj Bhavan in Bengaluru. Eligible candidates can apply through the Directorate of Minorities website before March 13. For details, contact Minority Information Centres in Mangaluru (0824-2433078), Bantwal (08255-232470), Belthangady (08262-95335), Puttur (08251-237078), Sullia (08257-230666) or the department helpline 8277799990, the district minority welfare officer said.

₹7 Lakh Underwater Communication Device Gifted to Diver Eshwar Malpe

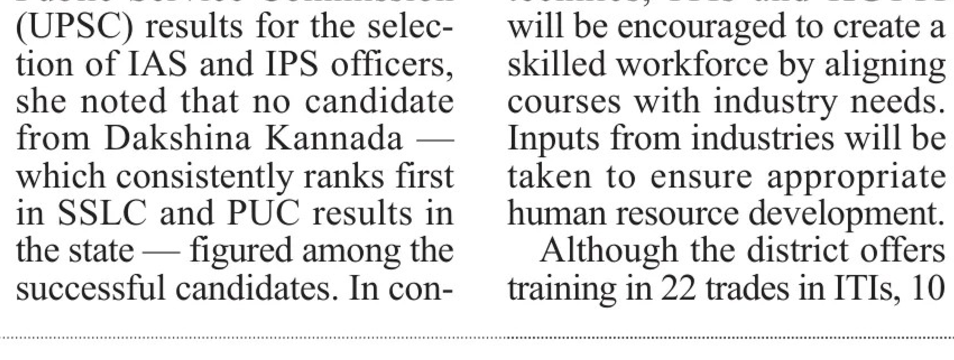
UDUPI

Rev. Fr. Denis D'Sa, parish priest of St. Anne Church, Thottam, praised acts of compassion toward those who serve society in distress as truly humane and divinely appreciated. He made the statement on Sunday evening while formally presenting an underwater communication device—valued at approximately ₹7 lakh—to diver Eshwar Malpe at the church premises.

The equipment, donated by the Michael D'Souza Charitable Trust, Mangaluru, enables clear two-way communication between a diver submerged during rescue operations and surface team members.

Eshwar Malpe has earned widespread respect for his frequent involvement in underwater recovery missions across Karnataka, often helping retrieve drowning victims. Until now, the lack of modern tools frequently exposed him to serious personal risk.

Fr. Denis highlighted that the new device will significantly enhance safety and effectiveness, allowing Eshwar to save more lives. He also noted that Eshwar's present house is in poor condition and shared that Michael D'Souza has committed to providing assistance for constructing a new home in the near future.



Eshwar Malpe, addressing those gathered, explained that rescue dives commonly reach depths of 30 to 40 feet, where communication has traditionally relied solely on rope-pull signals. He recounted several near-miss incidents that endangered his life and stressed that his team never discriminates on the basis of caste or religion—the sole focus is saving the person in peril.

He attributed their safe returns to the prayers and goodwill of the community and expressed deep gratitude to Michael D'Souza and the trust for equipping the team with this vital communication tool.

Oswald Rodrigues, representing the Michael D'Souza Charitable Trust, described responding to Eshwar's request as a noble privilege. He expressed hope that the advanced device will enable the diver and his team to assist many more people in life-threatening situations.

The ceremony was attended by Rev. Fr. Alvin Sequeira (editor of Uzwad newspaper), Sr. Sushma (Superior of the local convent), trust members Steven Pinto and Oswald Rodrigues, Church Pastoral Council Secretary Lavina Fernandes, 20 Commissions Coordinator Shanthi Fernandes, Church Women's Association President Priya Rodrigues, and several members of Eshwar Malpe's rescue team.

After first learning of Eshwar's dedicated service through social media and YouTube videos, Michael D'Souza instructed trust representatives Oswald Rodrigues, Steven Pinto, and Fr. Denis D'Sa to visit his home and evaluate his needs. Recognising the urgent requirement for an underwater communication device, they promptly arranged its procurement.

QUICK READ

Walk-in Interview for Jobs at Muthoot Money

Chikkamagaluru
Private firm Muthoot Money Private Limited will conduct a walk-in interview on March 11 at 10.30 am to fill vacancies for the posts of Branch Executive and Customer Care Executive. The interview will be held at the company's office located at Meghal Mane Arcade near Annapurna Hospital on KM Road in the city. Men and women candidates aged between 18 and 30 with any degree qualification are eligible to attend. Entry is free and candidates can appear for the interview with a copy of their resume.
For more information, candidates may contact the District Employment Exchange at 08262-295538 or 9945198500, the employment officer said in a release.

Vishwakarma Products Exhibition and Sale from March 13

Chikkamagaluru
A three-day exhibition and sale of products manufactured by beneficiaries under the Vishwakarma scheme will be held at Azad Park in the city from March 13 to 15. The event aims to promote marketing, skills and entrepreneurship among artisans and traditional workers. Beneficiaries will be provided stalls free of cost to showcase and sell their products. Carpenters, blacksmiths, sculptors, cobblers, masons, basket makers, fibre product manufacturers, barbers, florists, washermen and other traditional artisans can participate and benefit from the event. The information was released by the Assistant Director of the Development and Facilitation Office.

Free DTP Training by RUDSET from April 2

Chikkamagaluru
The Rural Development and Self Employment Training Institute (RUDSETI), run by the Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Educational Trust in association with Canara Bank, will organise a 45-day free training programme on Computer Desktop Publishing (DTP) from April 2. Rural unemployed youth aged between 18 and 50 who can read and write Kannada are eligible to apply. Applicants must possess a BPL card and Aadhaar card. Free food and accommodation will be provided during the training period. On completion of the programme, participants will receive a certificate from the Union Ministry of Rural Development. Interested candidates can apply or obtain further details by contacting RUDSETI at Arishinakunte in Nelamangala taluk of Bengaluru Rural district or by calling mobile numbers 9380162042, 9481506564 or 9481778047, according to RUDSETI Bengaluru branch director Ravikumar.

Environment Trust Welcomes Panel Opposition to Sharavathi Project

After years of protests, the trust urges both central and state governments to scrap the Rs 10,000 crore project that threatens Western Ghats biodiversity and long-term sustainability.

SHIVAMOGGA

The Shivamogga Environment Trust has expressed strong support for the independent site inspection report submitted by the expert team from the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Several leading state and national newspapers have published details from the report, which concludes that the proposed Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project lacks technical merit, environmental sustainability, and alignment with public interest. The assessment warns that implementing the scheme would cause extensive damage to the country's ecological integrity and pose serious long-term risks to national economic stability.

Environmental experts across the state have long argued that the project would inflict heavy harm on the invaluable plant and wildlife wealth of the Western Ghats. They have also pointed to simpler, more viable, and less destructive alternatives that could meet energy needs without such widespread ecological loss.

Local residents and various organisations have sustained a vigorous campaign against the proposal through memoranda, objections, dharnas, padayatras, and other forms of protest. Lakhs of people from different walks of life have participated in these efforts, clearly establishing the scheme as one that runs counter to public welfare.

The Shivamogga Environment Trust has actively collaborated with numerous groups throughout this movement, consistently raising awareness and mobilising opposition. The trust now warmly welcomes the expert panel's recommendations as a major validation of the concerns voiced over many years.

The organisation has called upon both the central and state governments to take immediate steps to cancel the Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project altogether.

18.50 Acres Identified for Street Dog Shelters in Udupi District: DC Swaroopa T.K.

UDUPI

To curb the menace of stray dogs in line with Supreme Court guidelines, Udupi district has earmarked 18.50 acres across multiple locations for establishing proper shelters with food, water, shade, and veterinary care facilities.

District Commissioner Swaroopa T.K. announced that 18.50 acres of land have been identified across the district for setting up dedicated shelters for street dogs, in strict compliance with Supreme Court directives aimed at addressing the growing issue of stray dog menace.

The DC made the statement while presiding over a district-level committee meeting focused on preventing stray dog-related problems. She explained that aggressive, rabid, or suspected disease-carrying dogs will be captured and shifted to these designated shelters. The identified sites include 9 acres within the Udupi City Municipal Corporation limits, 3 acres at Giliyaru in Saligrama Gram Panchayat, 1.5 acres at Kandavara in Kundapura taluk, 3 acres at Shirva in Kaup taluk, 1 acre in Karkala, and 1 acre in Byndoor.

She instructed officials to begin construction of the shelters without delay, ensuring all necessary provisions as per the guidelines—such as adequate food, clean drinking water, shade, and regular veterinary medical treatment—are made available at each location.

The DC further directed that prominent signboards reading "Dog Shelter" be installed at these sites once the facilities are ready. The initiative reflects the district administration's commitment to balancing public safety with humane treatment of stray animals, following legal mandates to manage the stray dog population responsibly.

Kayak Fishing Boat Stolen from Kaup Beach

UDUPI

A fishing kayak belonging to a local fisherman was stolen from Kaup Beach, where it had been left after use.

Rajesh Suvarna, a resident fisherman, had taken the kayak out for fishing on Saturday. Upon returning and heading to the Sunset Point side of the beach where he usually keeps it, he found the vessel missing.

The thieves took only the kayak itself but left behind the fishing nets that were inside it, along with three other kayaks parked nearby. Rajesh Suvarna immediately approached the Kaup Police Station and lodged a formal complaint regarding the theft.

The incident has raised concerns among beachside fishermen who regularly store their small craft along this stretch, and police have begun inquiries into the matter.

Journalist Killed in Head-On Bike-Scooter Collision

SHIVAMOGGA

A journalist lost his life in a road accident when the bike he was riding collided head-on with a scooter in the Benki Nagar area of Shivamogga. The deceased has been identified as Anil Naik, aged 44.

The mishap occurred around 10 p.m. on Sunday night (March 8). Despite being rushed to a private hospital for emergency treatment, Anil could not be saved and passed away due to his injuries.

Anil was working as a reporter for a private news channel at the time of the incident. He had also served as a cameraman in the television industry for more than 10 years, earning recognition for his dedicated contribution to local journalism.

His mortal remains were shifted to the McGann Hospital mortuary for post-mortem and further procedures. Authorities at the West Traffic Police Station have registered a case in connection with the accident and are investigating the circumstances that led to the fatal collision.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu Celebrates Holi with Husband During Film Shoot in Hosanagar

SHIVAMOGGA

The historic town of Bidanoor in Hosanagar taluk turned witness to a vibrant Holi celebration featuring popular South Indian actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu and her husband, adding a festive touch to the ongoing film shoot in the region.

The shooting for the Telugu movie 'Ma Inti Bangaram' is currently underway in select parts of Shivamogga district, with significant portions being captured in Hosanagar taluk and its neighbouring areas.

Samantha, who is playing the lead role, took time out from the set to participate in the Holi festivities. In a now-viral video, the actress was seen at Bidanoor town's bus stand, holding a water gun and enthusiastically applying colours to her husband amid the lively atmosphere.

Known for her active presence on social media, Samantha shared the joyful moments from the celebration on her own platforms.

The project, which features Samantha in a central character, is progressing steadily in the verdant Malnad landscape of Karnataka. The unexpected blend of high-profile cinema work and traditional Holi revelry has delighted locals and fans alike, with the viral clips capturing hearts across social media.

Truck Rams Scooter Rider in Perkala Near Manipal

UDUPI

A scooter rider suffered injuries when a truck hit his vehicle in the Perkala area. The victim has been identified as Naveen Kulal, a resident of Bairampalli.

The accident took place on March 6 along National Highway 169(A) in Perkala. Naveen was proceeding on his scooter when the truck, driven by Vadiraj Acharya, approached at high speed and crashed into the two-wheeler from behind.

The impact caused the scooter rider to fall onto the road, resulting in injuries. A case has been registered at Manipal Police Station in connection with the incident, and further investigation is underway to determine the exact circumstances and speed involved.

MP Inspects NH-169A Widening Work from Karavali Junction to Kalmadi Bridge

UDUPI

Udupi MP Kota Srinivas Poojari reviewed the ongoing expansion of National Highway 169A, addressing landowner compensation delays, electricity pole relocation issues, tree removal hurdles, and urged swift completion before the monsoon season.

MP Kota Srinivas Poojari conducted an on-site inspection of the road widening and improvement works currently underway on both sides of National Highway 169A from Karavali Junction to Kalmadi Bridge, accompanied by senior officials.

Although the project is progressing at a good pace, the MP examined several bottlenecks hindering faster execution. These included delays in disbursing compensation to affected landowners, slow preparation of podi (sub-division) records for partially acquired lands leading to payment issues, and obstacles in tree felling due to pending relocation of electricity poles.

He directed officials to deposit compensation amounts directly in the names of landowners in cases where accounts have complications, disputes, or objections, ensuring funds are secured without further hold-ups.

Poojari also spoke over the phone with higher authorities to secure immediate permission for tree removal along the alignment. When local residents highlighted that they had been waiting for days for MESCOM to shift power poles, the MP took into account the ongoing school examinations and instructed MESCOM officials to schedule a temporary power shutdown, creating a safe window for pole relocation without disrupting students.

Walking nearly 2 km along the stretch, he instructed the team to ensure full payment to those who have submitted complete documentation within one week. Emphasising the need to avoid any excuses for delay, the MP stressed that the entire road work must be completed before the arrival of the monsoon season.

Woman Succumbs to Severe Burn Injuries from Candle Fire

UDUPI

A 40-year-old woman lost her life following grave burn injuries caused by an accidental candle fire triggered during a power failure at her home. The incident occurred when Bhagya, a resident of Alevoor, lit a candle because there was no electricity supply. She placed it nearby and went to sleep.

In an unfortunate turn, the candle overturned and fell, igniting her clothes and body, resulting in extensive and severe burns. Family members immediately rushed her to the district hospital for emergency care.

Due to the critical nature of her injuries, she was transferred to Wenlock Hospital in Mangaluru for advanced treatment. Despite prolonged medical efforts, Bhagya could not recover and passed away on March 6. Authorities at Manipal Police Station have registered a case in connection with the tragic event and are documenting the circumstances surrounding the accident.

Elderly Woman Drowns After Slipping into Pond Near Home

UDUPI

A 67-year-old woman lost her life after accidentally slipping and falling into a pond close to her home in the village. The deceased has been identified as Sita Mogaveera, a resident of Shetrahithlu in Trasi. The incident occurred on March 7.

Family members noted that Sita had been unusually withdrawn for the past few days—she avoided speaking to anyone, skipped regular meals, and appeared to be going through significant mental turmoil.

On Saturday afternoon, she left the house to pick banana leaves from the garden for performing puja and for meals. While in the garden area, she lost her balance, slipped, and fell into the nearby pond, leading to drowning.

Her daughter, Nagashree Kanchan, approached the authorities and filed a complaint. Based on the details provided, Gangolli Police Station has registered a case and initiated necessary proceedings. The sudden and unfortunate death has left the local community in shock, with many reflecting on the importance of supporting those facing emotional or mental challenges.

Gambling Raid: 10 Arrested During Midnight Card Game

UDUPI

Police conducted a successful raid on an underground gambling den operating late Saturday night near Kooradi Melwate in the Brahmavara area, resulting in the arrest of ten persons actively involved in a card game. The accused individuals have been identified as Harish, Gururaj, Venkatesh Poojari, Harsha, Suresh Naik, Raja Naik, Peter D'Mello, Nagesh, Nagaraj, and Rajesh. During the operation, officers seized three two-wheeler vehicles, nine mobile phones, along with cash and other items used for the gambling activity. The total value of the confiscated property stands at ₹1,54,100. A formal case has been registered against the group under relevant sections of the law prohibiting gambling. The Brahmavara police continue to monitor such clandestine activities in the region to curb illegal betting and ensure public order.

MDMA Drug Seizure in Shirva: Two Arrested with 2.83 Grams and Car

UDUPI

Shirva Police successfully thwarted an attempt to transport illegal narcotic substances, arresting two individuals and seizing MDMA worth 2.83 grams along with the vehicle involved in the operation on March 8.

The accused have been identified as Zahir Ahmad (66), a resident near the dargah in Belapu village, Kaup taluk, and Sayyad Shameem (28), from Belapu village. Police recovered 2.83 grams of MDMA, a mobile phone, and the car used for the illegal activity.

The breakthrough came following specific information received on March 6 that narcotic substances were being transported to Chandranagar Janata Colony in Padur village. Acting swiftly, a team from Shirva Police Station intercepted a car parked along the Kaup-Shirva public road.

Upon inspection, officers discovered the MDMA concealed inside the vehicle. The two suspects were immediately taken into custody, the contraband was seized as evidence, and further legal proceedings have been initiated under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. The operation highlights the continued vigilance of local police in curbing drug trafficking along coastal routes in the region.

QUICK READ

Iran war: 9 flights to and from B'luru cancelled

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Iran-Israel War has intensified again, and restrictions have been imposed on Middle Eastern airspace. As a result, 9 flights scheduled to arrive at Bengaluru and 10 flights scheduled to depart have been cancelled. Some flights have been cancelled at Bangalore Kempegowda Airport. Flights to Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam, Dubai, Doha routes have been cancelled. Flights have been cancelled due to airspace restrictions and security reasons. Airport authorities have advised passengers to check their flight schedules. This is likely to cause temporary disruption to passengers travelling to the Middle East.

Woman found dead under mysterious circumstances

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The body of 27-year-old housewife Supritha was found under suspicious circumstances in Hennur police station limits. The incident came to light last night. Supritha (27) was married to Kiran Kumar five years ago. While Suprita stays at home as a housewife, her husband Kiran Kumar works in the sales team of a private firm. Suprita's family has claimed that she committed suicide by hanging herself. However, the Hennur police suspect it to be a suicide and there is no clarity on the incident at the moment. The police have registered a case and are investigating.

MLA Basavaraj Shivaganga's PA ends life

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The incident of suicide of Channagiri MLA Basavaraj Shivaganga's PA took place at a lodge near Upparpete in the city and came to light late. The deceased has been identified as Shivakumar, a native of Davanagere, and was working as a PA to Channagiri MLA Basavaraj Sivaganga. The deceased Shivakumar Mai had incurred a lot of debt. He had been fired from his job a few days ago. It is learnt that he committed suicide in a lodge on February 17 after making a video call to his wife, saying that he had had enough of life and was going to die. The Upparpet police have filed a case.

Min wants to promote local sale of Mysore silk sarees

Venkatesh was replying to MLA TS Srivatsa, who raised the issue of simplifying the sales, production and marketing of Mysore silk sarees

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Efforts are underway to enhance the production of high-quality Mysore silk sarees in response to the growing demand, said Minister K Venkatesh. There is a strategy to cease the online sale of silk sarees and instead promote local sales, he added.

During the question and answer session on Mysore silk sarees in the assembly on Monday, MLA TS Srivatsa raised the issue of simplifying the sale, production and sales of silk sarees. Responding to this, Venkatesh said, "There is huge demand for Mysore silk sarees as 300-400 sarees are being produced daily. Quality sarees are prepared with care. Efforts are being made to increase the production of sarees."

Srivatsa mentioned that individuals begin lining up as early as 3 am to purchase sarees. These sarees are sold as seconds, which come with a discount. Consequently, people form queues, he stated.

"Women tend to avoid purchasing sarees that are flawed. As a result, high-quality sarees are being meticulously woven on looms. The demand for these quality sarees is substantial. There is also interest from other states. Given the demand from both neighbouring states and international markets, we will suspend our online service. Our priority will be to satisfy local demand first," he explained.

In the past three years, the Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation (KSIC) has produced a total of 310,667 sarees. Of this total, 309,659 sarees have been sold. The corporation reported profits of Rs 46.75 crore for the fiscal year 2022-23, Rs 73.40 crore for 2023-24, and Rs 101.15 crore for 2024-25, he disclosed.

Meanwhile, raising the issue of the closure of the T Narasipur silk yarn manufacturing unit, Opposition leader R Ashoka said, the government's decision to shut down this facility is inappropriate. The government intends to construct a stadium in that location. Ashok urged the government to reconsider its decision. Minister Byrathi Suresh supported this stance.

In response, Venkatesh remarked that the Chief Minister had been misled into believing that there was available land for a stadium at that site. Subsequently, he became aware of the truth. The government has resolved to abandon the proposal to utilize that land. Currently, that land is not for sale. He emphasized that the KSIC unit in T Narasipur will remain operational and will not be closed. A stadium will not be established there.

Additionally, R Ashok asserted that the wages of the employees at KSIC are inadequate. They are generating substantial profits, and he suggested that 1% of those profits should be allocated to the workers. They have reported a profit of Rs 99 crore; he proposed that Rs 1 crore should be distributed among the employees, he stated.

Paperless land surveys by end of year as services go online

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The implementation of new technology will avoid exploitation of farmers by middlemen and delay in getting the required documents.

In a major push for transparency and efficiency, the Survey, Settlement and Land Records (SSLR) wing of the revenue department has decided to fully digitise its operations, allowing citizens to apply online for land surveys, generate sketches and identify property boundaries without having to visit any government office. Officials said the department plans to complete the digitisation process by the end of 2026.

Once rolled out, applicants can submit survey requests, track their status, and download official documents from anywhere. The move is expected to reduce delays, get rid of middlemen and curb corruption, said Venkat Raja, SSLR Commissioner.

At present, the department receives between one lakh and 1.2 lakh survey applications every month from citizens and government departments.

The department has already scanned survey documents, some of which date back to the British era. However, several old records, akarbands and land extent measurements, are not in a readable format.

Many entries, especially numerical details, are recorded in Marathi and other languages.As part of the drive, these records will be converted into accessible digital formats. Accurate land measurements will be extracted from original footnotes, key survey documents that record physical measurements and property boundaries.

"The data will then be integrated into geospatial digital revenue maps to improve precision. We are using rover equipment to conduct digital surveys to speed up the process and fix boundaries more accurately," he said.

"We are also creating a Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) for every property to prevent future disputes.," he added.

Airline offers ₹1K for dented bag, passenger sues and wins ₹ 17K

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 28-year-old Bengalurean experienced a similar issue, but he decided to fight back. A year and a half on, the consumer forum has concluded that the airline was negligent and ordered compensation and litigation costs.

Saurabh Raperia, a resident of Old Airport Road and a member of Air India's frequent flyer programme, travelled from Delhi to Bengaluru on September 8, 2024, with a fragile tag placed on his checked-in trolley bag. On arrival at Kempegowda International Airport, when he went to collect his bag, he found a significant dent on it. He approached the airline's baggage service counter to lodge a complaint, but the executives allegedly refused to accept it or issue a Property Irregularity Report (PIR), instead asking him to raise the issue via email.

Later that day, he posted about the incident on X. Air India responded seeking his ticket details, baggage tag number, and a damage complaint number. He shared the available information, noting that no complaint number was issued as the staff had refused to register his grievance. On Sept 9, 2024, he formally emailed the airline seeking compensation. Two days later, Air India offered Rs 500, which was later revised to Rs 1,000 after he termed it inadequate.

On December 10, 2024, Raperia filed a complaint with the consumer commission. Air India denied the allegations, contending that there was no deficiency in service or unfair trade practice, and sought dismissal of the complaint. The Commission said, the opposite party has taken a defence that, as per its carriage policy, if a passenger leaves the baggage delivery area without reporting damage, the baggage is deemed to have been received in good condition. This defence cannot be accepted in the present case, as the complainant has clearly established that he attempted to report the damage at the airport itself but was prevented from doing so by the airline's own staff. A service provider cannot rely on an international policy when its own officials have obstructed compliance with it. Citing settled law, the commission noted that once damage to checked-in baggage is established, the burden shifts to the airline to prove absence of negligence. No such evidence was produced by Air India. The commission, on Feb 17, 2026, directed Air India to pay Rs 7,000 in damages and Rs 10,000 as litigation costs.

Illegal mortgage on apt land leaves buyers worried

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Illegal mortgaging of land used for apartment projects is emerging as a growing concern, exposing homebuyers to prolonged legal disputes and financial uncertainty.

In one such case on Anekal-Chandapura Road, residents of an apartment complex with 384 flats have spent years battling to secure ownership rights, after the land and several flats were allegedly mortgaged by the developer without the knowledge of buyers. Under property laws, once apartments are sold, the land and common areas are meant to be transferred to a cooperative society or an association of apartment owners. Fearing that the apartments could be auctioned, the homeowners approached the debt recovery tribunal challenging the mortgage executed under the SARFAESI (Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest) Act.

Cab driver held for snatching gold chains from shopkeepers

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 32-year-old cab driver was arrested for allegedly snatching chains from shopkeepers and 28 grams of gold ornaments were recovered from him. On January 29, a condiments store owner told police a man arrived in a car at night, purchased a cigarette and was smoking while speaking to his friend seated inside the vehicle. He asked for another cigarette a little later. When the shopkeeper handed it over, the accused, later identified as C Sharanappa allegedly grabbed him by the neck and tried to snatch his gold chain. Though the victim resisted, Sharanappa managed to pull away a portion of the chain and fled the spot. In another incident on February 3, a shopkeeper told police two men arrived on a two-wheeler. One of them pretended to purchase an item and suddenly snatched his 24-gram gold mangalya chain before escaping.

HC denies bail to contractor in recruitment exam fraud

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Terming him a habitual offender, the Kalaburagi bench of Karnataka high court has denied bail to RD Patil, also known as Rudragouda, the alleged mastermind behind several recruitment examination fraud cases.

Patil was arrested in November 2023 by a special team of criminal investigation department (CID) led by Raghavendra K Hegde, superintendent of police with the financial intelligence unit. The arrest was made under the Karnataka Control of Organised Crime Act (KCOCA).

He is currently in judicial custody at Mysuru Central Prison.The CID arrested Patil in connection with alleged malpractices in the First Division Assistant (FDA) And Second Division Assistant (SDA) recruitment examinations conducted by the Karnataka Examinations Authority.

According to the chargesheet, Patil, a Class I civil contractor from Kalaburagi, supplied electronic devices such as Bluetooth devices and walkie-talkies to candidates to help them cheat in the examinations. Investigators also accused him of organising similar scams in multiple recruitment tests.

B'luru to revive municipal bonds, targets ₹1K cr

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is preparing to revive municipal bonds as a financing tool for city infrastructure, with plans to mobilise about Rs 1,000 crore in the initial phase. Bengaluru also has historical precedent in this area.

The erstwhile Bangalore Municipal Corporation (BMC) was among the first urban bodies in India to issue municipal bonds in 1997.

Officials say the renewed push is intended to revive that model while aligning the city with broader reforms in urban finance. Confirming the plan, additional chief secretary, UDD, Tushar Girinath told that GBA was working towards preparing Bengaluru's five city corporations to access financial markets.

The initial aim is to raise Rs 1,000 crore through the municipal bonds. The initiative is aimed not only at raising funds but also at improving the financial systems and transparency of municipalities. Before issuing bonds, civic bodies must undergo credit rating assessments and document their assets, revenue streams, and financial health, Tushar Girinath said.

The basic plan to leverage the instrument found a mention in the Karnataka State Budget 2026–27, where Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that corporations under the GBA framework would mobilise resources for development works by issuing municipal bonds based on their balance sheets.

We will have to put our assets and revenue streams up for assessment. Once we get a proper credit rating, we can float bonds and expect a better response from investors, Tushar Girinath said. To prepare for the bond issuance, the state government is working with intermediaries and financial institutions, including the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO), to compile documentation and establish the required financial processes.

Authorities stressed that the broader goal is to make municipal corporations financially credible institutions that can access multiple funding sources.

HUMANITY TOWARDS STRAY DOGS

5 city corporations identify 498 feeding spots for stray dogs in B'luru city

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The five city corporations have identified 498 feeding spots for street dogs in an effort to strike a balance between animal welfare and public safety, making these locations the only official spaces within city limits to feed strays.

In the long run, the city corporations plan to establish at least 2-3 feeding zones per ward. With a total of 369 wards, the total feeding zones could exceed 700. Those feeding stray dogs should provide food strictly at the marked spots and ensure the area is cleaned afterwards. No bowls or plates will be provided at the sites, citizens must feed the dogs and leave the place hygienic.

The move has sparked a debate. With limited staff to monitor feeding points, critics argue the responsibility appears to rest largely on citizens rather than the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA).

Questions have also been raised about practical challenges: should feeders wait until the dogs eat, could stale food be dumped at the feeding spots, and whether irregular feeding could trigger territorial conflicts or behavioural changes among stray packs. According to officials, 'feeding point' signboards will be installed at the approved sites. The initiative follows Supreme Court and Animal Welfare Board of India guidelines to promote structured feeding, reduce dog aggression, and support sterilisation and vaccination drives.

With these feeding spots, BBMP's plan to feed the stray dogs regularly has been revoked, sources added. Bengaluru North and South corporations plan to increase the number of feeding zones. An official from South city corporation said the current spots are based on the old ward system and would be expanded for better accessibility. An animal husbandry official said, here, the responsibility lies mostly on the public. We are understaffed to monitor every feeding zone.

North City Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar said, seventy spots are definitely not sufficient for my corporation; we will increase the number soon. In the meantime, animal activist Sujaya Jagadeesh said multiple spots are necessary as packs of dogs would not share common feeding spots because of their territorial nature.

GBA should ensure the allocated feeding spots are clean, away from rubbish and human disturbance, reflecting respect for these living creatures. GBA must prioritise humane and practical solutions and not do things arbitrarily.

QUICK READ

Applications open for local grievance committee

Chikkaballapur
The Women and Child Development Department has invited applications for the selection of members of the Local Grievance Redressal Committee at the district level under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013. As the previous committee's term has ended, eligible candidates from NGOs or social welfare organizations who have worked for women's advancement or prevention of sexual harassment can apply. Interested individuals must submit their proposals, documents, and details by April 6 to the Deputy Director's Office, District Administration Building, Chikkaballapur. For queries, contact 7795520866.

Wife killed over minor dispute

Chikkaballapura
In R. Chokkanahalli village, 25-year-old Varalakshmi was found dead, allegedly murdered and hanged by her husband Gangaraju following a heated argument over a phone call from her friend Shravani's lover. The dispute erupted when Varalakshmi received and responded to the man's call. Gangaraju, furious, warned her against meddling in the affair. Tensions boiled over into violence, culminating in her strangulation and hanging to stage a suicide. Varalakshmi's family accuses Gangaraju, his mother, and father of murder, filing charges at the local police station. An FIR has been registered, with investigations underway to probe the suspicious death. This case highlights rising domestic violence linked to personal interferences.

Subsidy offered for SC/ST mobile canteen training

Chikkaballapura
The Tourism Department is offering a one-month entrepreneurship training program for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the SCSP/TSP scheme for 2025-26. Trained candidates will receive a subsidy of ₹5 lakh to run a mobile canteen. The program targets 8 SC and 5 ST participants and will be conducted through state and central government hospitality institutions with accommodation. Applicants must have passed at least 10th class, be aged 20–45, and submit applications by March 13. For details, contact the Assistant Director, Tourism Department, Chikkaballapur at 08156-277041.

Deputy Commissioner orders fair selection for housing

The Deputy Commissioner said 959.11 acres will provide housing sites at 358 locations, with GPS mapping covering 758.14 acres

CHIKKABALLAPURA

G. Prabhu, Deputy Commissioner of Chikkaballapura district, has directed officials to ensure that beneficiaries of government shelter schemes are selected strictly as per rules through Gram Sabhas.

He issued the instructions while presiding over a review meeting on the implementation of the Chief Minister's Rural Shelter Scheme at the District Collector's Office on Monday. The Deputy Commissioner said that 959.11 acres of land have been sanctioned in the district for distribution of housing sites under the scheme. From this land, sites can be developed at 358 locations across the district. A GPS-based map has already

been prepared for 758.14 acres, and officials were instructed to complete further steps quickly to provide plots to eligible beneficiaries.

Prabhu emphasised that Gram Sabhas must be conducted in the presence of local representatives, taluk officials and district level officers. Proper documentation, photographs and videography should be maintained during the selection process to ensure transparency.

He also directed officials to give priority to applicants who had already submitted applications during the 2018 survey. Beneficiaries should be selected in the order of their applications without any pressure or influence.

The Deputy Commissioner said plots smaller than 30×40 feet should not be approved. If such smaller plots are created, officials must reject them immediately.

He warned that distributing sites to ineligible persons would damage the credibility of the administration and such lapses would not be tolerated.

Officials were also instructed not to select unsuitable land such as rocky areas, ravines or hill slopes for the housing scheme.

Senior officials including Y. Naveen Bhat, N. Bhaskar and Manjunath attended the meeting along with tahsildars and municipal commissioners.

Chikkaballapur athletes shine at state relay meet

BENGALURU

Athletes from Chikkaballapur district delivered an impressive performance at the state-level athletics meet held at Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru on March 7 and 8, winning both gold and silver medals in relay events.

In the 4x400 meter relay race in the under-20 girls' category, athletes from Shidlaghatta taluk — Srinagaraj, Akshayshekhar, Hatmina, and Noopraholla — secured the gold medal with an outstanding performance.

With this victory, the team has been selected to represent the state at the national-level relay competition in Chandigarh from March 18 to 20.

Meanwhile, athletes from Chintamani — Gowrishankar, Uttam, Samuel, and Sandeep — won the silver medal in the 4x100 meter relay race.

Officials including District Athletic Association General Secretary Manchanabale Srinivas, Joint Secretary Bhaktaharahalli Nagaraj, and member Bharathkumar attended the event. Association President K.V. Naveenkiran congratulated the athletes and wished them success at the national competition.

Swamiji emphasized honoring women, promoting education and equality, citing Vivekananda's message, and recognizing International Women's Day achievements

Women empowerment key for strong and equal society

RAMANAGARA

Women are symbols of strength and motherhood, and empowering them is essential for the progress of society, said Shri Annadaneshwarnath Swamiji of the Adichunchanagiri Ramanagara branch mutt.

He spoke while inaugurating the Ramanagara Taluk Negilayogi Women's Unit at Patel English School in the city on Sunday. During the event, appointment orders were distributed to newly selected office bearers of the women's unit.

Swamiji highlighted the importance of respecting women and ensuring equal opportunities through education and awareness. Referring to the message of Swami Vivekananda, he said women should be honored as divine mothers and empowered to

contribute fully to society. He also noted that International Women's Day, celebrated on March 8, recognizes the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women while promoting gender equality.

He encouraged the Negilayogi Women's Unit to actively raise awareness about women's safety, rights, and empowerment. He said women must come together, organize themselves, and confidently stand up for their rights. Negilayogi Ramanagara District Unit President Patel C. Raju said the Negilayogi Social Service Trust has been engaged in social service for the past five years. He congratulated the newly appointed members of the women's unit and wished them success in their service activities.

Floral tributes were also offered to the portrait of Savitribai Phule to mark International Women's Day celebrations.

Exams should be celebrated like festivals: Officer

CHITRADURGA

Students should not write exams under pressure but instead face them with enthusiasm just like festivals, said Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer and Taluk Bala Bhavan Committee President Y. Ravikumar.

He was speaking at the inauguration of the "Children's Art Talent" programme held at K.K. National English Secondary School in the city. The event was organized by the State Bala Bhavan Society in collaboration with the Zilla Panchayat, the Women and Child Development Department, and the District and Taluk Bala Bhavan Committees.

Ravikumar explained that annual school examinations come once a year, just like festivals. Therefore, students

should approach them with confidence and excitement instead of fear. He also advised parents not to put unnecessary pressure on their children during exams. "A child's mind is like a flower. It is the duty of parents to nurture it with knowledge and guide it with good values," he said.

District Bala Bhavan Programme Coordinator D. Sreekumar, while introducing the programme, said the Kalapratibha initiative of the State Bala Bhavan is being conducted successfully across the district. The programme is organized under the guidance of State Bala Bhavan President B.R. Naidu and Secretary Nischal, along with district officials.

Headmaster Maheshwarappa presided over the function. Certificates and pens were distributed to children who won various competitions during the event.

Teachers and physical education instructors also attended and encouraged the students.

Farmers launch Dharani Satyagraha protest in Tumakuru

TUMAKURU

Farmers under the banner of the Karnataka State Farmers' Association (Green Sene) staged a protest in front of the District Collector's office in Tumakuru on Monday, launching a "Dharani Satyagraha" against what they described as anti-farmer policies of the State government.

Farmers from different parts of the district gathered at the protest site wearing traditional green shawls, a symbol of the farmers' movement. The demonstrators sat on the road in front of the Collector's office, which caused traffic disruption in the area for some time.

During the protest, the farmers raised several demands related to land rights and protection of agricultural land. They urged the government to grant land ownership rights to farmers who have been cultivating land within city limits for many years.

One of the main issues highlighted during the protest was the recent amendment to the Karnataka Land Reforms Act. Leaders of the farmers' association demanded that the amendment be withdrawn, stating that allowing non-farmers to buy agricultural land could threaten the future of farming and food security.

The farmers also opposed the acquisition of fertile agricultural land for industrial or non-agricultural purposes. They warned that converting farmland for other uses would severely affect agricultural production and farmers' livelihoods.

Another major demand raised during the protest was a complete ban on mining activities in agricultural zones. Farmers argued that mining damages soil fertility and affects irrigation water sources.

Leaders of the farmers' association said the protest was not political but a struggle to protect agriculture and farmers' livelihoods. They stated that the agitation would continue until the government gives a written assurance to review the policies affecting farmers.

Women's Day celebrated with focus on empowerment

TUMAKURU

"Any contribution to a woman benefits society twice," said Mrs. C. Bhuvaneswari, President of the Karnataka Women Entrepreneurs Association, while speaking at the International Women's Day celebration held at Sri Siddhartha Technical College.

Organized jointly by the Women's Development Committee and the IQAC Department of the college, the event highlighted the importance of education, empowerment, and opportunity for women. Bhuvaneswari emphasized that women's voices have immense power and society must provide them respect, priority, and opportunities rather than just slogans.

Dr. K.B. Lingegowda, Vice Chancellor of SAHE University, said women are actively contributing in every field today, urging initiatives to promote their economic empowerment. Dr. G. Gurushankar, Controller of Examinations, noted that 60 percent of women are employed, and highlighted the historic contributions of leaders like Indira Gandhi and Sudha Murthy.

Dr. Mahantesh A.A. Nadakatti, Principal of Sri Siddhartha Technical College, praised women for their tireless roles as daughters, students, wives, and mothers, and stressed the importance of higher education for girls. He called upon everyone to raise their voices against inequalities and atrocities faced by women, urging them to move forward courageously to shape a stronger society.

The program was attended by Deans of Examinations Dr. Sum.R and Dr. Divyaprabha, IQAC Coordinator Dr. Raviram.V, Professor Dr. Ashwini S. Shivannavar, and students.

HEALTH STAFF DEMANDS

Health staff petition MLA to fill vacancies

HANAGAL

Officials and staff of the Health and Family Welfare Department submitted a petition to MLA Srinivas Mane, urging the government to address their legitimate demands, including filling vacant posts in the department. The petition highlighted that the shortage of staff has made providing quality health services challenging across hospitals and health centers.

The petitioners also demanded an adequate supply of medicines to all hospitals, revision of cadres and recruitment procedures, and regular

publication of seniority lists. They called for timely promotions of officers and employees, opportunities for higher education for serving staff, and corrections in transfer processes. The petition emphasized that meeting these demands is essential for the smooth functioning of the health department and better service to the public. Responding to the petition, MLA Mane assured that he would bring the concerns to the notice of the government and work toward resolving them.

Present during the petition submission were Taluka Health Officer Dr. Lingaraj K.G., Karnataka State Employees' Association Taluka President Gurunath Gavanikar, Administrative Medical Officers Dr. Akhilesh Malode and Dr. Gagan Malode, along with Basavaraj Didagur, Dr. Shivakumar Shivoor, Gopikrishna Naykar, Prakash Nagarahalli, Jyothi, and other health department officials and employees' association representatives.

The move reflects growing concern among health staff over staffing shortages, career progression, and the need for systemic improvements to strengthen public health services in Hanagal.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AMSHITH S/o KUMAR R GOWDA, R/o 4-17 Kusuma Geetha, Arjunakodi House, Kompadavu Post Mangaluru, Kompadavu Village, Kompadavu, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka-574144, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AMSHITH KUMAR ARJUNAKODI.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, D GAYETHREE W/o CHOWDAREDDY Y, R/o Maddagirihalli, Doddanancherlu, Tirumani, Chikkaballapur, Karnataka-562104, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GAYATHRI D.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, HEMANT KUMAR GULATI S/o LATE JAMANLAL GULATI R/o Flat 8C, Binny Crescent, No 16, Benson Cross Road, Benson Town, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560046, have changed the name of my minor daughter ISHA GULATI aged 17 years and she shall hereafter be known as ESHA GULATI.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **LALITHA** W/O C MOHAN aged 65 years, R/o FLAT NO 301, 3RD FLOOR, BHUMIKA PINEWOOD APARTMENT, BASAPPA ROAD END, VTC: SHANTHINAGAR, PO: WILSON GARDEN, SUB DISTRICT: BANGALORE SOUTH, DISTRICT: BENGALURU, STATE: KARNATAKA, PIN CODE: 580027, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **LALITHA RANGARAJU** TO **LALITHA**, henceforth, and I shall be known and called as **LALITHA**, for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 09 MARCH 2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **R VISHWANATH** at Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SRINATH B K S/o KALLAPPA B R/o Ward No 2, Callon Market Road, Chik Ballapur, Chickballapur, Chikballapur, Chikkaballapur, Karnataka-562101, have changed the name of my minor son A S VOMAKESH aged 16 years and he shall hereafter be known as VYOMAKESH A S.

Document Lost

I Am Kalavathi, Ashrehall, Kandalikere Hobli, Chikkanayakanahalli, Taluk, Tumakuru district, i was lost my release deed (Doc No 2258) At Chikkanayakanahalli city on 9/03/2020 at around 12.00 noon. A complaint has been filed in this regard at Chikkanayakanahalli Police Station (Case No. 2099758/2026) If anyone finds it, please return it to this address or phone number 8088829689.

Document Lost

This is to inform to General public that my client Sri. Shantaraj G K S/o Krishnappa and Sri.Archita V W/o Shantaraj G K , Resiging at Situated at 96,#T,564,24,7 Hosakote Town Taluk and Bangalore Rural District, I am the Owner of the Below said Property,while Sale Deed for taken Digital copy ,have lost following Documents of property pertating to below Mentioned property Situated at 96,#T,564,24,7 Hosakote Town Taluk and Bangalore Rural District, had published the factum of lost of her Original Regd Sale Deed,Dated;- 28-11-2001, Regd Sale Deed, Executed by Sri.R Dinakaran S/o M E Rajashekaran,In Favour of Smt.Jayamma W/o Thammayya , In regd as Book No.1,Volume No.2367,Page No.218-226,Doc No.2299/2001-2002,In regd before of the SRO Hosakote., in respect of Property Bearing Hosakote town, Vishweshawaraya Badavane 4th stage,Khanishamari no.2496/A,New Khanishmari no.5627/1, in which Old Katha no.2496/A, Site no.21, in Measuring 30 x20 Feets,police complaint have been filed with regards to loss of the above said Document vide complaint in NCR NO. Lost Report no.2094651/2026, DATED;-05-03-2026, and complaint dated;-05-03-2026, by respective person,if anybody finds these Document please inform within 7 Days in Below mentioned Address.
Place;-Chinthamani,
Date;-05-03-2026.

K.S.HARISH KUMAR
ADVOCATE
Office: NEAR KISHORE SCHOOL, ABOVE APPOLO PHARMACY, BESIDE SANTHOSHI MATHA TEMPLE, BANGALORE MAIN ROAD CHINTHAMANI.
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QUICK READ

Admissions open for class 8 at Vidyashala

Chikkaballapur
Sri Ramakrishna Vidyashala, Yadavagiri, Mysore, is inviting applications for admission to class 8 for the year 2026-27. The entrance exam will be held on April 15 at 10 am. The program targets talented male students from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and children of parents in unhygienic professions with pre-matric scholarships. Applicants must submit class 6 and 7 SATS marks, caste and income certificates, and other relevant documents by March 25 to the Deputy Director, Social Welfare Department, Chikkaballapur. Exams will be conducted in English or Kannada medium.

Honest bus operator returns lost mobile phone

Mandya
In a heartwarming act of honesty, Satish B.S., a KSRTC bus operator from the Nagamangala depot, returned a mobile phone lost by a passenger. On Sunday morning, Manjula and her husband N. Shekhar of Haniyambadi village were travelling from Mandya to Adichunchanagiri when Manjula's phone went missing. Despite searching, it was not found. Later, Satish spotted the phone near the bus depot, called the couple, and asked them to collect it at Mandya bus stand. N. Shekhar thanked Satish for his honesty.

Mandya to host Women's Sports meet

Mandya
The District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Youth Empowerment and Sports Department, and Mai Bharat Kendra Women and Child Development Department will jointly organize a Women's Sports Meet on March 15, 2026, at Sir M. Visvesvaraya Stadium, Mandya. The event celebrates International Women's Day 2025-26 and aims to encourage women's participation in sports.The meet will feature group competitions like Thoball and Cricket for women above 19 years, and 4×100 m relay for participants aged 19–40 years. Individual competitions include 100 m running, discus throw, shot put, and slow cycle race for ages 19–40, while 100 m running, discus throw, and shot put will be held for women above 40.Winners will receive medals and certificates. Participants can register using the QR code provided, with registration open until 6:00 pm on March 14, 2026.

Temple trust praised for social service work

Bandeppa Khashempur said the temple's long history and beauty result from trust members' efforts and public contributions of time, effort, and funds

BIDAR

The activities of the Biralingeshwara Temple Service Committee Trust are socially oriented and are contributing positively to the community, said former minister and senior Janata Dal (Secular) leader Bandeppa Khashempur.

He spoke during a programme held at the Biralingeshwara Temple in Kumbarwada area of Bidar on Sunday. The event marked the installation and Kalasarohana of the idols of Sri Biralingeshwara, Sri Malingaraya and Sri Mahatma Bommagondeshwara, along with the inauguration of a Sabha Bhavan and Irakara Bhavan in the temple premises.

Addressing the gathering, Bandeppa Khashempur said the temple has a long history and has become more beautiful due to the efforts of the trust members and the cooperation of the public. He noted that people from the community have contributed their time, effort and financial support for the development of araya temple earlier in Bidar city, but now the temple has been established for the benefit of devotees. He suggested that regular worship and religious activities should be conducted to further develop the temple.

Malkapure also stressed the importance of education in society and urged people to encourage girls to pursue studies. He said educated women can contribute more effectively to family and community development.

Amrutrao Chimkode, district president of the Guarantee Scheme Implementation Committee, P. S. Itgampally, executive president of the temple service committee, and several others were present on the occasion.

CPI(M) opposes LPG cylinder price hike

KALABURAGI

Neela said commercial cylinder cost hikes may raise food and service prices, increasing financial pressure on consumers.

The recent increase in the prices of domestic and commercial LPG cylinders is a harsh decision that will place an additional burden on common people, said K. Neela, district secretary of Communist Party of India (Marxist) in Kalaburagi.

In a press release issued on Monday, he said the price of domestic LPG cylinders has been increased by ₹60, while commercial cylinders have seen a hike of ₹114.50. He described the move as unfair and said it would severely affect poor families and beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

Neela said the increase would also indirectly affect consumers because businesses that rely on commercial cylinders are likely to pass on the additional cost to the public. As a result, prices of food and other services may rise further, placing greater financial pressure on ordinary citizens.

He added that the hike comes at a time when many middle-class families and workers are already struggling with rising prices and stagnant incomes. According to him, the decision will make daily life more difficult for people who are already facing economic challenges.

The CPI(M) leader criticised the central government for not reducing taxes on LPG cylinders and alleged that the government's stand reflects an anti-people attitude.

He also said the government's attempt to justify the price hike by citing tensions in West Asia is not convincing. According to him, the explanation is being used to divert attention from the real issue.

Neela urged the government to immediately withdraw the increase in LPG cylinder prices in the interest of the public.

Senior police, including IGP Harsha and SP Suman D. Pannekar, said a hostel assault killed one student; minor in custody

Ballari Hostel Assault: Missing student found

BALLARI

Police have traced and taken into custody the boy who went missing after attacking his classmates and the warden at a private residential school hostel, an incident that led to the death of one student.

Senior police officials, including IGP Harsha and SP Suman D. Pannekar, briefed the media about the case. IGP Harsha explained that on the night of March 7, nine students were staying in the hostel when one of them attacked seven classmates and the warden. One student was critically injured and later died. The minor involved in the assault is currently in police custody and will undergo medical examination and counselling before being presented in court.

SP Pannekar added that after the attack, the student fled the hostel. A special team was immediately formed, and by checking CCTV footage and visiting multiple locations, the missing student was located and apprehended.

The incident has sparked outrage in Ballari. The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) organized a protest, demanding action against the residential school administration. Student leader Dileep alleged that the use of drugs may have played a role in the incident and called for strict measures to prevent such incidents in schools and colleges. Parents of the deceased student demanded justice and questioned the negligence of the school authorities in maintaining student safety.

Police investigations are ongoing, and authorities have emphasized that proper counselling and legal procedures will be followed to ensure justice and prevent further incidents.

Mandya Lokayukta to hear public grievances

MANDYA

Officials of the Mandya Lokayukta division will hold a public grievance meeting in Malavalli taluk on March 11 from 11 am to 1:30 pm.

Residents can submit complaints regarding corruption, delays in government work, or issues with officers and employees in government and semi-government offices.

The meeting will be attended by DySP Sunil Kumar, Bataraya Gowda BP, Ravikumar M., Lepaksha Murthy RG, and Police Inspector of the Karnataka Lokayukta.

The public can personally meet the officers at the Malavalli taluk office to raise their concerns, said the Lokayukta Superintendent of Police.

2,900 mule accounts active in Belagavi; Police warns public

BELAGAVI

The Belagavi City Police have issued a warning to the public as cyber fraudsters continue to exploit innocent people's bank accounts for criminal activities. Commissioner of Police Bhushan Borase revealed that 2,900 mule accounts are currently active in the city, used by cyber criminals to transfer illegally obtained money.

These fraudsters specifically target unemployed youths and women, luring them with promises of commission for handling money transfers. Once victims provide their bank account information, the criminals transfer stolen money into these accounts, making the account holders unwitting participants in cybercrime.

In one instance, a local resident opened nine bank accounts for the promise of commission. Fraudsters then transferred ₹80 lakh through these accounts before moving the money elsewhere. Investigations by the Cyber Crime Police Station revealed that such misuse of accounts is widespread. Commissioner Borase urged citizens to exercise extreme caution, warning that offers of easy money, work-from-home opportunities, or commissions could be traps. He emphasized that anyone providing account details to fraudsters risks becoming an unintentional accomplice in cybercrime.The police are actively tracing all 2,900 mule accounts in Belagavi and have appealed to the public to report any suspicious activity immediately.

Kanakagiri journalists assaulted; Taluk demands action

YALABURGA

The Taluk Karnataka Working Journalists' Association has submitted a petition to the tehsildar condemning the attack on journalists in Kanakagiri town of Koppal district and demanding strict legal action against the perpetrators.

According to Association President Mallu Matarangi, the incident occurred on March 2 around 7 pm when PAPM member Anilukumar Bijjala and the husband of PAPM president T.J. were at a medical store near Kanakagiri Town Panchayat. During an argument involving a local named Ramachandra, journalists Madhusudan, Prahlad Reddy, Srinivasa Pujar, and others who went to the scene were reportedly abused, threatened, and had their mobile phones taken.

Matarangi described the incident as alarming, stating that the attack reflects an attempt by hundreds of people to suppress the media, creating an environment of fear for journalists. He urged the authorities to ensure strict legal action against those responsible.Honorary President Imamsabha Sankanur also condemned the assault, emphasizing that the police were present at the scene and should have prevented the attack. He called for proactive filing of complaints and accountability for the culprits.

Taluk General Secretary Santosh Bundri, District Executive Members Mahantesh Chalavadi and Sharanu Gumageri, Vice President Chandrasekhara Maradadi, Treasurer Doddabasappa Hakari, and other association office bearers were present during the petition submission.

Women achieving success across all fields: Virupakshaiah

KANAKAGIRI

Women today are proving their ability in every field of life and reaching great heights despite many social and economic challenges, said Virupakshaiah, Shishu Development Scheme Officer.

He was speaking at an International Women's Day programme organised at the Taluk Panchayat office in Kanakagiri on Monday. The event was jointly organised by the Women and Child Development Department, Koppal Taluk Panchayat, the Taluk Guarantee Schemes Implementation Committee and Shishu Development Yojana.

Addressing the gathering, Virupakshaiah said women play a vital role in the family and society. As mothers, sisters and wives, they carry major responsibilities in family life and contribute significantly to the progress of society. However, he noted that women still face several challenges while taking independent decisions in social, economic and political matters.

He expressed concern that child marriage continues to occur in some rural areas and urged the public to work together to eliminate the practice and support the education and empowerment of girls.

Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer K. Rajasekhara said women are moving forward with confidence and equality. He added that women are making valuable contributions to society by demonstrating their talent in various fields and supporting the country's economic growth. On the occasion, Social Welfare Department officer Hulagappa Chaluvadi, Guarantee Committee chairman Hazrat Hussain, PAP member Hanumanta Basarigidada and committee member Ganappa also shared their views. Vice president Kanthiranga Nayaka, former president Hussainbee Chalmarad and members Siddesh K.,

Teachers protest question paper policy discrimination

HAVERI

The Karnataka State Secondary School Employees Association (KSSSEA) district unit has strongly condemned the recent policy by DSERT that restricts the distribution of question papers for the upcoming second cumulative examination of classes 6 to 9 only to government high school principals. Aided and unaided schools, which also follow the state government curriculum, are excluded from receiving the papers.

The district unit submitted a petition to the government through Additional District Collector Dr. Nagaraj L.

, demanding that the question papers be sent to all schools without discrimination. The petition highlighted that lakhs of students study in aided and unaided schools, and it is unfair to adopt a stepmotherly approach towards their education.

Speaking at the submission of the petition, District Unit President R.H. Bettellera, Secretary N.N. Kundura, along with members M.B. Ramesh, M.S. K.A. Chanagowada, D.D. Langoti, Malatesh Chaluvadi, Devagappanar, Shobha Jagateri, N.M. Olekara, Basavaraja Patil, S.C. Eli, Suragondara, Ravi V., Sangamesh Paraddi, V.N. Havanur, S.B. Channur, Poojara, and several other teachers emphasized the importance of equal treatment for all students.

The teachers called for immediate corrective action to ensure that students in aided and private schools have access to the same examination materials as government school students.

They urged the authorities to uphold fairness in the education system and prevent any disadvantage to students due to institutional policies.

The petition marks a significant step in advocating equal rights for all school students across the district.

AMBEDKAR HOSTEL PROGRAM

Students urged to balance education with arts

VIJAYAPURA

Students should focus on overall development along with education by actively participating in arts, culture and sports, said Mahesh Potadara, Deputy Director of the Social Welfare Department.

He spoke at the concluding ceremony of an art training programme held at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Government Pre Matric Girls' Hostel in Vijayapura. The programme was organised by the Department of Kannada and Culture under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Subscheme.

Potadara said art is a powerful medium that helps students build confidence and creativity. He encouraged hostel students to take part in activities such as dance, music and sports along with their regular studies. Such activities, he said, help in the all-round development of young minds.He also thanked Santosh Bhovi, Assistant Director of the Department of Kannada and Culture, for giving the hostel students an opportunity to learn dance. The training programme continued for six months and helped many students discover their hidden talents.Presiding over the programme, B.J. Indy from the Social Welfare Department appreciated the initiative and expressed gratitude to the Department of Kannada and Culture for organising the training for the children.

Member of the Karnataka Lambani Sanskriti Bhasha Academy, R.B. Nayak, said dance is respected across the world and plays an important role in preserving culture. He shared his experiences of giving Lambani dance training to students of Maharani's College in Bengaluru and recalled receiving the Karnataka Rajyotsava Award for his artistic contribution.Academy member Surekha Lamani advised students to continue learning arts along with education and grow confidently in life.

QUICK READ

Trichy airport runs 8 Gulf flights amid crisis

Trichy

Despite rising tensions in West Asia involving Donald Trump, Benjamin Netanyahu and Ali Khamenei, Tiruchirappalli International Airport continued limited operations on Sunday. Airport data showed eight flights operating between Trichy and Gulf destinations on March 9. The Ministry of Civil Aviation said airlines are reviewing safety as conflict disrupts air routes. Many international flights were cancelled or rerouted due to airspace closures. Airlines are using safer corridors to maintain essential services while passengers have been advised to check flight updates regularly.

BJP appoints observers for Rajya Sabha polls

New Delhi

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday appointed central observers for upcoming Rajya Sabha elections in Bihar, Haryana and Odisha. Party chief Nitin Nabin approved the appointments, according to a notification issued by national general secretary Arun Singh. Union minister Harsh Malhotra and Chhattisgarh deputy chief minister Vijay Sharma will oversee polls in Bihar. Gujarat deputy chief minister Harsh Sanghavi will monitor Haryana, while Maharashtra minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule has been appointed observer for Odisha.

Shah may reply to debate on no-confidence motion against Birla

Parliament prepares for a debate on a no-confidence motion against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday

NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is likely to respond to the debate on a no-confidence motion moved against Om Birla in the Lok Sabha, according to sources. The discussion is expected to take place on Tuesday.

The motion was brought by Opposition members who alleged that the Speaker acted in a partisan manner while conducting proceedings in the House. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju and other leaders are also expected to participate in the debate.

The discussion was scheduled for Monday but could not take place due to repeated adjournments caused by Opposition protests. Opposition members were demanding a separate debate on the West Asia situation. Government sources said they want the discussion on the motion to be held as soon as possible.

The notice for the motion was submitted by 118 Opposition MPs during the first phase of the Budget Session. Since then, Birla has not been presiding over the proceedings of the House.

The motion will be moved by three Congress MPs – Mohamed Jawed, K. Suresh and Mallu Ravi. Opposition leaders have accused the Speaker of denying opportunities to the Leader of Opposition and other members to speak in the House.

They also criticised the suspension of several Opposition MPs and alleged that objectionable remarks made by some ruling party members were not addressed.

According to constitutional rules, the Speaker can attend the debate and defend himself but cannot preside over the proceedings during the discussion. If voting takes place, Birla will cast his vote using a paper slip.

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Birla, calling him an excellent Speaker who works above party lines and follows parliamentary traditions.

Nadda slams Oppn walkout during EAM speech on Mideast crisis

NEW DELHI

Union Minister J P Nadda criticised Opposition parties for staging a walkout in Rajya Sabha during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's statement on the West Asia situation

Union Minister J. P. Nadda on Monday strongly criticised the Opposition for creating disruptions and walking out of the Rajya Sabha during a statement by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on the situation in West Asia.

The developments began after obituary references and the laying of listed papers in the House. Rajya Sabha Chairman C. P. Radhakrishnan then invited Jaishankar to present the government's statement on the ongoing tensions in the region.

However, Congress president and Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge requested permission to speak before the minister's statement. After being allowed by the Chair, Kharge expressed concern that the growing conflict in West Asia could affect India's economic stability and also threaten the safety and livelihood of thousands of Indian workers living in the region. He further urged the government to allow a short-duration discussion in the House on the changing geopolitical situation and its impact on India's energy security. Kharge said the crisis could pose serious challenges for the country's energy supply and economic interests.

The Chairman responded that he would return to Kharge's request later and again asked Jaishankar to proceed with his statement.

As the minister began speaking, members from the Congress and other Opposition parties stood up and demanded that Kharge be allowed to complete his remarks and that a short discussion be held immediately. The protest continued for several minutes inside the House.

Soon after, Opposition members staged a walkout while Jaishankar was still delivering his statement on the West Asia situation.

Reacting to the protest, Nadda, who is also the Leader of the House, described the Opposition's behaviour as irresponsible. He accused them of trying to create disruption and said such actions show that they are not interested in constructive discussions or the country's development.

Delhi High Court stays remarks against CBI

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday stayed adverse remarks made against the Central Bureau of Investigation in the Delhi Excise Policy case. Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma also directed the trial court to defer proceedings in the related Prevention of Money Laundering Act case. The order came while hearing the CBI's appeal against the discharge of 23 accused, including Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia. The court issued notice to the respondents and scheduled further hearing in the matter.

'INDIA MAINTAINS 74 DAYS OF STRATEGIC OIL RESERVES BUFFER'

NEW DELHI

The Government on Monday informed the Rajya Sabha that India currently has storage capacity for crude oil and petroleum products for about 74 days. This reserve is meant to help the country manage supply disruptions caused by global crises or geopolitical tensions. Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi shared the details in a written reply to the House. He said the government has developed Strategic Petroleum Reserve facilities with a total capacity of 5.33 million metric tonnes. These reserves alone can meet around 9.5 days of India's crude oil requirement.

In addition to this, Oil Marketing Companies maintain storage facilities that can supply crude oil and petroleum products for about 64.5 days. Together, these reserves provide a total national storage capacity of approximately 74 days.

To further strengthen the reserve system, the government approved two additional strategic storage facilities in July 2021. These projects will be built at Chandikhol in Odisha and Padur in Karnataka under the Public Private Partnership model. The new facilities will add a combined capacity of 6.5 million metric tonnes, increasing the reserve coverage by another 12 days of imports. The government has also taken steps to reduce risks related to global supply disruptions. These measures include diversifying crude oil import sources, avoiding conflict-prone routes, and improving diplomatic cooperation with major oil-producing nations. India also works closely with global energy organisations such as the International Energy Agency, Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and the International Energy Forum to ensure energy security.

According to official estimates, India's proven crude oil reserves stand at 423.1 million metric tonnes, while natural gas reserves are estimated at 595.4 billion cubic metres, reflecting continued exploration efforts across the country.

India's cheetah population crosses 50 with cubs

NEW DELHI

India's cheetah population has crossed the 50 mark after a Namibian cheetah named Jwala gave birth to five cubs at Kuno National Park.

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announced the development on Monday and described it as a proud moment for the country's wildlife conservation efforts.

The birth of the cubs has taken the total number of cheetahs in India to 53, marking a major milestone for Project Cheetah. The ambitious programme aims to restore the cheetah population in India after the species became extinct in the country decades ago.

Sharing pictures of the newborn cubs, the minister said the achievement reflects steady progress in the reintroduction programme launched a few years ago. He described the birth as a historic and heart-warming moment for wildlife conservation in the country.

Recently, nine cheetahs from Botswana were brought to India and released in Kuno National Park on March 1. The group included six females and three males. They were transported to India in a Boeing C-17 Globemaster III as part of an international wildlife cooperation effort.

Officials said the number of cheetahs born in India has now crossed 30. With Jwala's litter, the number of Indian-born cubs has increased to 33. This also marks the 10th successful cheetah litter recorded in the country since the reintroduction project began.

Yadav praised veterinarians, forest officials and field staff for their dedication in protecting and monitoring the animals. He expressed hope that Jwala and her cubs would grow strong and contribute further to India's cheetah conservation success story in the coming years.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-2/TENDER/2025-26/8301 DATE: 07/03/2026

E-Tender Notification (Call-1 & Call-2)

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise e-Tenders from Registration in KPWD Department authorized by Karnataka Government for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 1 work under head of account 3054-MDR Bridge maintenance and 3 works under head of account 8443-Deposit Contribution, Totally 4 No. of works, amount put to tender is minimum of Rs. 6.00 Lakhs and maximum of Rs. 67.74 Lakhs.

Calendar of events for the works at Sl No. 1, 3 & 4:1)Last date for queries & clarifications : 20-03-2026 up to 5.30 PM, 2)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 24-03-2026 up to 5.00 PM, 3)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 26-03-2026 at 4.30 PM, 4)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids", 5)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

Calendar of events for the works at Sl No. 2: 1)Last date for queries & clarifications : 23-03-2026 up to 5.30 PM, 2)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 25-03-2026 up to 5.00 PM, 3)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 27-03-2026 at 4.30 PM, 4)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids", 5)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-2028/KSMCA/2025-26

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 17/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.02.2026

ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ– IV ರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (Double Cover System) ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ CMIDP ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಯಡಿ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಕ್ತ ದರ್ಜೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಇಲಾಖಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ. **(1)** E-procurement ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್–ಬಿ ಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23.03.2026 ರ 16.30 ರವರೆಗೆ (2)** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.03.2026 ರಂದು 16.35 ನಂತರ (3)** ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.03.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ನಂತರ (ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದಲ್ಲಿ) (4)** ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ (ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ): e- Procurement ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ (ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ
1	Improvements to road from Dibburahalli-Shidlaghatta main road to Tatahalli village Shidlaghatta taluk. Chikkaballapur district (VR 261) **(RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25318)**	200.00	300000.00	9 ತಿಂಗಳು
2	Improvements to road from fromT. Gollahalli-KY Road Via Tuluvanur chainage 0.00 Km to 3.40 Km Chintamani Taluk Chikkaballapur District. **(RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25150)**	200.00	300000.00	9 ತಿಂಗಳು
3	Improvements to road from Pendlivarahalli cross to Kambarahalli Doddagummanahalli road to the border. Shidlaghatta taluk. Chikkaballapur District. **(RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25320)**	140.00	210000.00	6 ತಿಂಗಳು
4	Improvements to road from From Muduganakunte Cross via Jakkenahalli to Kadaburu village in Gowribidanur Taluk Chikkaballapur District **(RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25322)**	200.00	300000.00	9 ತಿಂಗಳು
5	Improvements to road from Kadabur village to Saragondlu village in Gowribidanur Taluk Chikkaballapur District **(RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25323)**	120.00	180000.00	6 ತಿಂಗಳು
6	Improvements to road from NH 234 road via Bhaktarahalli village to Colonyin Gowribidanur Taluk Chikkaballapur District **(RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25324)**	150.00	225000.00	6 ತಿಂಗಳು
7	Improvements to road from Huduguru village to Virupasandra Lakshmipur road via fishermens houses in Gowribidanur Taluk Chikkaballapur District **(RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25326)**	120.00	180000.00	6 ತಿಂಗಳು
	Total	**1130.00**		

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ. ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:470/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

National Health Mission
District Health Society, District Health & Family Welfare Office
Bengaluru South District, Ramanagara
Phone: 9449843206, **e-mail:** dhoramanagaram@gmail.com

No.: NHM/DHS/BS/MP/01/2025-26 Date: 06.03.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The District Health & FW Officer, Bengaluru South District, Ramanagara, hereby invites tender in two cover system (Technical and Financial Bids) as per KTPP Act 1999, from the registered and eligible companies to procure a total no. of **13 Four wheeler vehicle services with drivers** for various programmes and also procure a total no. of **79 different Human Resource services for various programmes** under National Health Mission in Bengaluru South District through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). The prospective service agencies are willing to participate in this tender shall necessarily register themselves with the above mentioned e-procurement portal.

1	Tender Number	1. DHFWS/2025-26/SE2038 2. DHFWS/2025-26/SE2040
2	Date of Commencement of Tender	Date: 06.03.2026
3	Last Date and time for submission of tender	Date: 20.03.2026 @ 5.30 PM
4	Date & Time of opening of Technical Bid	Date: 23.03.2026 @ 11.00 AM
5	Date & Time of opening of Financial Bid	Date: 25.03.2026 @ 11.00 AM
6	Total Estimated Tender Value	**No.1:** Rs 1,70,00,000/- **No.2:** Rs. 57,60,000/-
7	Tender EMD Amount	**No.1:** Rs. 4,25,000/- **No.2:** Rs. 1,45,000/-

Interested and eligible bidders may submit their bids through e-procurement process only.

Sd/-
District Health & Family Welfare Officer
Bengaluru South District

DIPR/BSD/692/SA/2025-26

CH CLASSIFIEDS
To place a classified ad contact:
080-41209042

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, procurement Section, CESC, Mysuru-570017.
Ph: 9448994705, Email ID: gmpurc@cescmysore.org Website: www.cescmysore.org

CESC/GM(P)/AGM(P-2)/M(P-1)2025-26/41023 Date: 07.03.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement Portal Only)

CESC, Mysore invites Short Term Tenders from eligible bidders for Materials as mentioned below:

Sl.No	Nomenclature of the work	Enquiry No/ Date
1	Supply of 11kV, Horizontal Cross Arm-GI to CESC jurisdiction	C2-6478/07.03.2026
2	Supply LT 4Pin Cross Arm-GI to CESC jurisdiction.	C2-6479/07.03.2026

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **09.03.2026.** For clarification contact help desk **080-46010000/ 22631200/68948777 or e-mail address support@eprochelpdesk.com**

For Electricity related complaints Call: 1912

DIPR/MYSORE/1806/Shirdi Sai/2025-26

Sd/- General Manager (Procurement),CESC, Mysuru.

QUICK READ

Mamata accuses BJP of disrupting protest site

Kolkata

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday alleged that workers of the Bharatiya Janata Party were distributing leaflets at the site of her sit-in protest in Dharmatala, Kolkata. She asked Trinamool Congress workers to catch those involved and hand them over to the police. Banerjee, who has been staging a protest for three days against the SIR exercise, also asked state minister Shashi Panja to file a police complaint. The leaflets reportedly promoted Narendra Modi's March 14 rally in the city. Banerjee accused the BJP of trying to influence the electoral process and claimed those distributing the leaflets fled after being confronted.

4 minors held for assaulting Manipuri woman

New Delhi

Four juveniles were apprehended for allegedly assaulting a Manipuri woman in a park at Malviya Nagar in south Delhi, police said on Monday. The incident occurred on Sunday evening when the woman and her friend were walking near the Saket District Court Complex. Police said the minors passed remarks at the two women. When one of them objected, an argument broke out and the accused allegedly attacked her. The victim suffered minor injuries and was taken to Safdarjung Hospital for treatment. Police teams later conducted raids and apprehended all four minors. Officers said they are in constant contact with the victim and further investigation is underway.

Woman attacked with corrosive substance in hospital

Gurugram

A 24-year-old woman suffered severe burns after a man allegedly threw a corrosive substance on her at Civil Hospital Gurugram on Sunday night, police said. The woman, a resident of Nuh district, had earlier been assaulted by the accused the same day. She had gone to visit her aunt in Subhash Nagar. After the first attack, she was taken to the hospital for treatment. Police said the man followed her to the hospital and threw the corrosive substance, causing serious burns to her face and body. The victim is undergoing treatment, and police have launched a search to trace the accused.

Rahul bats for Parliament debate on West Asia crisis

He said the crisis could lead to major economic problems for India, including higher fuel prices and financial instability

NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Monday said the ongoing conflict in West Asia is a serious issue and must be discussed in Parliament. Speaking to reporters at the Parliament complex, he said the crisis could lead to major economic problems for India, including higher fuel prices and financial instability.

Gandhi said the conflict could cause large financial losses and affect different sectors of the Indian economy.

He noted that the impact is already visible in the stock market and warned that the situation could worsen if the crisis continues. According to him, the developments in West Asia are important for the country and Parliament should discuss them without delay.

His remarks came during a sharp political exchange between the ruling National Democratic Alliance and the Opposition Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance over the demand for a debate on the issue. The ruling alliance criticised the Opposition for pushing the discussion when a debate on a no-confidence motion against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla had already been scheduled.

Gandhi also referred to the interim trade agreement between India and the United States and suggested that it could further affect the country's economy. He questioned why the government was reluctant to discuss the West Asia situation first, saying that rising fuel prices and economic challenges directly affect citizens.

Meanwhile, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal criticised Gandhi and the Indian National Congress for disruptions in Parliament. He called Gandhi a "failed Leader of Opposition" and alleged that the party had become directionless under his leadership.

Leaders from the ruling side also accused the Opposition of wasting Parliament's time by creating disturbances while demanding an immediate debate on the West Asia conflict.

Jaishankar meets Doval, Chauhan amid Mideast crisis

India reviews the West Asia situation as the government monitors developments, ensures safety of citizens abroad and discusses security concerns with top defence and national security officials

NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar held a meeting with National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chief of Defence Staff Anil Chauhan in Parliament on Monday to review the ongoing conflict in West Asia and its possible impact on India.

Earlier, Jaishankar addressed the Rajya Sabha and informed members that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is personally monitoring the fast-changing situation in the region. He said the government has issued advisories to Indian citizens living in Iran and other affected areas, stressing that the safety of Indians abroad remains the top priority.

Jaishankar said different ministries are working together to respond quickly to the crisis. He added that the Embassy of India in Tehran is fully operational and helping Indian students and workers. According to him, several students have already been moved to safer places because of the rising tensions.

The minister also said efforts are underway to help Indians who are currently stranded in countries such as Qatar and Jordan so that they can return home safely.

Providing details about the impact of maritime disruptions, Jaishankar told the House that two Indian merchant sailors have lost their lives and one sailor is still missing. He said the conflict has become a major concern for India as the region is close to the country and plays an important role in India's economy.

The minister pointed out that nearly one crore Indians live and work in Gulf countries, while thousands are in Iran for study and employment. He also warned that West Asia is crucial for India's energy security because it supplies large amounts of oil and gas.

Jaishankar said increasing tensions could disturb supply chains and worsen regional instability. He repeated that India supports dialogue and diplomacy to reduce tensions and restore peace.

CBI summons Vijay again in Karur stampede case

NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has summoned Vijay for further questioning on March 10 in connection with the Karur stampede case. Officials said the agency recently gathered new material that requires additional clarification from the actor-turned-politician. A fresh notice has been issued asking him to appear before investigators for another round of questioning. Vijay, who heads the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, had earlier been questioned at the CBI headquarters on January 12 and January 19 as part of the investigation. The case relates to a stampede that occurred on September 27, 2025 during a rally addressed by Vijay in Karur. The tragic incident claimed the lives of 41 people and left more than 60 others injured. Following directions from the Supreme Court of India, the CBI took over the probe from a Special Investigation Team (SIT). The court had ordered the agency to conduct an independent investigation into the incident.

In October last year, the apex court also asked the CBI director to appoint a senior officer to lead the investigation. Additionally, it set up a supervisory panel headed by former Supreme Court judge Ajay Rastogi to monitor the progress of the case.

A bench of Justices J. K. Maheshwari and N. V. Anjaria had observed that the incident left a deep impact across the country and raised serious concerns about public safety.

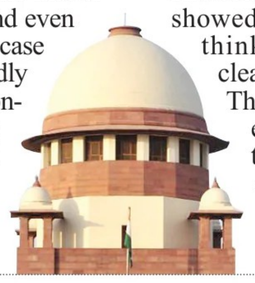
The court said restoring public confidence in the investigation process is essential. It emphasised that the probe must remain impartial, independent and transparent, especially considering the families who lost their loved ones in the tragedy.

SC dismisses 5 frivolous PILs filed by lawyer

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court of India on Monday dismissed five Public Interest Litigations filed by a lawyer, calling them frivolous and lacking proper legal basis. The court strongly criticised the petitions and questioned the lawyer about filing such cases.

A bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi reprimanded advocate Sachin Gupta, who had filed the petitions. The Chief Justice asked the lawyer whether he prepared such petitions late at night, pointing out that they were vague and poorly drafted. One of the petitions requested the court to order a scientific study to examine whether onion and garlic contain "tamasic" or negative energy. The plea referred to the dietary traditions of the Jain community, which avoids onion, garlic and root vegetables because they are believed to carry negative energy. The bench questioned the purpose of the petition and asked why it would raise issues that might hurt the sentiments of the Jain community. In response, the petitioner argued that the matter was a public issue and even mentioned a divorce case in Gujarat that allegedly involved the use of onions in food. The court expressed strong displeasure and warned the lawyer not to file such petitions again. The bench said it would take strict action if similar petitions were submitted in the future.



Apart from this petition, four other PILs filed by the lawyer were also dismissed. These included pleas seeking regulation of harmful content in alcohol and tobacco products, mandatory registration of properties, and guidelines for declaring classical languages.

The court said the petitions showed a lack of careful thinking and had no clear legal foundation. The Chief Justice added that heavy penalties could have been imposed if the petitioner had not been a lawyer.

PARTIES SEEK 2-PHASE POLLS IN BENGAL

KOLKATA

Representatives of several political parties in West Bengal met the full bench of the Election Commission of India on Monday and suggested that the upcoming assembly elections be held in a maximum of two phases.

The meeting was attended by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar along with Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi. West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Agarwal and other senior officials were also present. The meeting took place at a hotel in New Town near Kolkata.

Leaders from major parties including the Trinamool Congress, Bharatiya Janata Party, Communist Party of India (Marxist), Indian National Congress, Aam Aadmi Party, National People's Party and All India Forward Bloc attended the discussion.

According to officials, several parties recommended that the election should be held in one or two phases and assured the commission of their support to maintain peace during polling.

Party representatives also requested the commission to take strict action against anti-social elements and prevent voter intimidation. They stressed the need for strong security arrangements, including the deployment of adequate numbers of Central Armed Police Forces to prevent violence and ensure safe voting. Some parties raised concerns about the possible use of crude bombs, illegal firearms, money power and muscle power during the elections. During the meeting, the Chief Election Commissioner assured the parties that the commission would take all necessary steps to conduct free, fair and transparent elections in the state. He said the commission follows the law strictly and has zero tolerance for violence during elections. Kumar also said the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls was carried out in a transparent manner. He added that Forms 6, 7 and 8 can still be submitted for inclusion, deletion or correction of voter details.

ECI ignored concerns over SIR: TMC

KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress on Monday claimed that its concerns about the SIR exercise were not addressed during a meeting with the full bench of the Election Commission of India. State minister Chandrima Bhattacharya said the party delegation was told that the matter would be decided by the Supreme Court of India since the TMC has already approached the court. The meeting was attended by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar along with Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi. West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Agarwal was also present. The discussion with political parties was held at a hotel in New Town near Kolkata. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Bhattacharya said the commission repeatedly stated that the matter was sub judice whenever the TMC raised the issue of the SIR exercise. She questioned why the meeting was called if the commission was not ready to hear the party's concerns.

Bhattacharya said the party had approached the court to protect people's rights and insisted that raising the issue was necessary.

AKHILESH SEEKS DEBATE ON WAR IMPACT

LUCKNOW

Akhilesh Yadav on Monday said Parliament should discuss India's position and the safety of citizens amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

The Samajwadi Party president said the current situation has created conditions similar to wartime and requires urgent discussion on national security, foreign policy and the protection of Indians living or travelling abroad.

In a post on X, Yadav said when the Budget Session of Parliament of India went into recess, the country was facing different issues. However, the conflict in West Asia has now created new concerns that need immediate attention.

He said Parliament should debate India's official stand on the conflict and review the country's foreign policy decisions. Yadav also raised concerns about decisions related to essential resources such as oil, claiming that India has moved from independent decision-making to following directions from the United States. The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister said questions related to India's sovereignty and self-reliance should also be discussed in the present situation. According to him, these matters directly affect the country's future and require serious debate in the House. Yadav also stressed that the safety of Indian citizens working or travelling in regions affected by the conflict must be ensured. He called on the government to take steps to bring them back safely.

He also mentioned journalists and media personnel who had travelled abroad with Prime Minister Narendra Modi but were unable to return after the war began.

RICE AID

India sends rice aid to drought-hit Malawi

NEW DELHI

India has sent a humanitarian shipment of 1,000 metric tons of rice to Malawi to help the African nation deal with food shortages caused by drought linked to the El Nino weather phenomenon. The rice consignment was shipped from Nhava Sheva Port and is meant to provide immediate relief to people facing food scarcity due to severe drought and crop failures. The assistance highlights India's continued support to developing countries and its commitment to cooperation among nations of the Global South.

Sharing the information on social media, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the shipment aims to strengthen the India–Malawi partnership in food security. He said the move reflects India's efforts to support partner countries and promote South-South cooperation during difficult times.

The El Nino climate pattern has disrupted rainfall in several parts of southern Africa, including Malawi, leading to poor agricultural output and growing food insecurity. Malawi is a landlocked country in southeastern Africa and depends heavily on agriculture for both food supply and economic stability.

Due to prolonged dry spells linked to El Nino, the production of maize, the country's main staple crop, has been badly affected. As a result, millions of people are facing the risk of food shortages.

El Nino occurs in the tropical Pacific Ocean when sea surface temperatures become warmer than usual. This change weakens trade winds and affects weather conditions across the world. While some regions receive heavy rainfall and floods, others face drought and dry conditions.

Scientists closely monitor El Nino because it can influence global temperatures, agriculture, fisheries and weather systems such as monsoons and hurricanes.

IRAN SUCCESSION SPARKS OIL PRICE SURGE

Mojtaba's elevation to the country's most powerful position appears to shut down hopes for a swift diplomatic resolution to the conflict currently destabilizing the Middle East.

Continued from page 1

Mojtaba Khamenei (56), a Shi'ite cleric known for his strong ties to Iran's security establishment, has emerged as the successor to his father.

Analysts say the decision reflects the continued dominance of hardline factions within Iran's political and military leadership. His elevation to the country's most powerful position appears to shut down hopes for a swift diplomatic resolution to the conflict currently destabilizing the Middle East.

Leadership transition intensifies global economic uncertainty

The leadership transition has also intensified global economic uncertainty. The conflict has already disrupted international energy supplies, creating one of the most severe shocks to global oil markets in recent history. Following the announcement of Mojtaba Khamenei's appointment, oil prices surged sharply while global stock markets recorded steep declines, reflecting fears that the war could drag on and further strain energy supplies.

Mojtaba Khamenei is believed to enjoy significant support from Iran's powerful security forces and the extensive business networks connected to them.

However, his leadership has been strongly rejected by the United States. U.S. President Donald Trump has declared the new leader unacceptable and has reiterated demands for Iran's unconditional surrender, further deepening tensions between the two countries. Despite the growing international pressure, Iranian state media broadcast images of large crowds gathering in several cities to show support for the new Supreme Leader. Demonstrators were seen waving Iranian flags and carrying portraits of both Mojtaba Khamenei and his father, Ali Khamenei.

In the central city of Isfahan, state television reported the sound of explosions from nearby airstrikes even as loyalists assembled in the historic Imam Square. Crowds gathered beneath a stage displaying portraits of the late leader and his successor, chanting religious slogans and expressing defiance. Meanwhile in Tehran, mourners attending public gatherings were heard singing slogans praising the Khamenei leadership, reflecting a mix of grief, nationalism, and support for the newly appointed Supreme Leader as the country braces for an uncertain future.

Oil output, exports knocked by Iran conflict as prices rise

SINGAPORE

The growing instability in the Middle East has sparked serious concerns among global policymakers, with many nations scrambling to prevent the sharp rise in energy prices from triggering wider economic shocks.

Oil markets reacted strongly to the escalating conflict, with prices jumping dramatically after major producers reduced output while Tehran signalled that hardline leadership would continue to steer the country's political direction.

Amid rising fears of supply shortages, finance ministers from the Group of Seven (G7) nations are expected to discuss the possibility of a coordinated release of emergency oil reserves.

According to a French government source, the issue will be taken up during a meeting scheduled for Monday as member nations explore ways to stabilize global energy markets and calm investors.

The potential release of strategic oil reserves is seen as one of the few immediate measures available to governments to counter the rapid surge in prices. Such coordinated actions have been used in the past during global crises to increase supply and prevent extreme volatility in energy markets.

Countries heavily dependent on Middle Eastern oil have already begun implementing domestic measures. In South Korea, which imports nearly 70 percent of its oil from the region, President Lee Jae Myung announced that the government would introduce a cap on fuel prices — the first such move in nearly three decades. The decision is aimed at protecting consumers and businesses from sudden spikes in energy costs.

Speaking at an emergency government meeting, Lee warned citizens against panic buying and emphasized the seriousness of the situation. He described the ongoing crisis as a significant burden on South Korea's economy, noting that the country relies heavily on global trade and energy imports from the Middle East.

QUICK READ

Swiss prosecutors expand probe into Crans-Montana Ski Bar fire

Geneva

According to a legal document seen by Reuters, Crans-Montana Mayor Nicolas Feraud has been named as a defendant and summoned for questioning on April 13. The investigation centres on potential criminal negligence linked to the deadly fire that tore through the Le Constellation bar on January 1. The fire claimed the lives of 41 people, most of them teenagers who were celebrating the New Year at the popular ski resort venue. The tragedy shocked Switzerland and prompted a nationwide review of safety standards at entertainment venues and tourist facilities. Feraud, who is in his 50s, did not immediately respond to requests for comment regarding his inclusion in the investigation.

Sydney court weighs protecting suspect family

Sydney

The request was made on Monday during a hearing in a Sydney court concerning 24-year-old Naveed Akram, who has been charged in connection with one of Australia's deadliest mass shootings in decades. Authorities allege that Akram opened fire during a Jewish Hanukkah celebration at Bondi Beach on December 14, killing 15 people and injuring several others. According to police investigators, the attack shocked the nation and sparked a major counterterrorism response.

Hezbollah clashes with Israeli forces in Lebanon

JERUSALEM

According to Hezbollah, the confrontation took place during an Israeli airborne operation in eastern Lebanon. The group claimed its fighters engaged Israeli troops during the raid, marking what could be the second such military operation in the area in recent days. The statement suggests that the conflict between the two sides is intensifying beyond routine cross-border exchanges. The Israeli military did not immediately confirm

the incident. When contacted regarding Hezbollah's claims, an Israeli military spokesperson said there was no immediate comment on the reported clash. Lebanon became directly involved in the expanding regional conflict after Hezbollah launched attacks against Israel earlier this month. The group said its actions were intended to avenge the killing of Iran's former Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei, whose death triggered widespread tensions across the Middle East. Hezbollah, which was founded in 1982 by Iran's Revolutionary Guards, has long been one of Tehran's most powerful allies in the region. Meanwhile, Israeli forces continued their aerial campaign against Hezbollah positions on Monday. Airstrikes targeted Hezbollah-controlled southern suburbs of Beirut, sending thick plumes of smoke rising over parts of the Lebanese capital. Residents reported hearing multiple explosions as Israeli aircraft carried out the strikes.

The Israeli military also issued renewed warnings urging residents in the targeted areas to evacuate for their safety. In addition, Israeli authorities announced that they would take action against Al-Qard Al-Hassan, a financial institution linked to Hezbollah that Israel accuses of helping finance the group's operations.

'India second-largest arms importer after Ukraine; Pak relies heavily on China'

Continued from page 1

Over the past decade, India has also diversified its defence procurement sources, gradually reducing dependence on Russia while increasing purchases from Western partners such as France, Israel and the United States.

"Russia's share of Indian arms imports fell from 70% in 2011–15 to 51% in 2016–20, and further to 40 per cent in 2021–25," SIPRI said.

China–Pakistan arms nexus sharpens India's security concerns

According to SIPRI, India's continued procurement of foreign military hardware is largely shaped by its security competition with China and Pakistan.

"India was the world's second-largest recipient of major arms in 2021–25 with an 8.2% share of total global arms imports. Its arms imports are driven by tensions with both China and Pakistan. These tensions have regularly led to armed conflict, as they did briefly between India and Pakistan in May 2025, with both sides using imported major arms," the report said.

Pakistan emerged as the fifth-largest importer of major arms worldwide during 2021–25, rising sharply from 10th place in 2016–20. Its arms acquisitions increased by 66% between the two periods and accounted for 4.2% of global imports.

China continued to dominate as Pakistan's principal defence supplier, providing 80% of the weapons it imported in 2021–25, up from 73% in the previous five-year period.

SIPRI also noted that although China exported major weapons systems to 47 countries during this period, a significant share was concentrated in Pakistan.

Govts push tougher age checks on social media for kids

SAN FRANCISCO

For years, child safety advocates urged technology companies to take stronger steps to prevent minors from accessing harmful content or creating accounts on platforms meant for adults.

However, many tech firms maintained that implementing reliable age verification systems would be impractical and potentially compromise user privacy.

That stance is now facing increasing pressure from governments worldwide. Policymakers are introducing new regulations requiring platforms to verify the age of users before allowing access to certain online services. These measures aim to prevent children from being exposed to harmful content or interacting with potentially dangerous online communities.

The push gained momentum after Australia implemented a landmark ban on social media accounts for teenagers earlier this year. The move is being closely watched by regulators in Europe, Brazil, and several U.S. states, many of whom are now considering similar rules.

In the United States, California Governor Gavin Newsom — widely viewed as a potential Democratic candidate in the 2028 presidential race — recently expressed support for stricter age limits and verification systems for online platforms. Interest in such measures is also emerging from the Republican side of the political spectrum, with reports indicating that Trump is also examining potential policies related to age restrictions online.

Calls grow in UK to cancel King Charles' planned US visit after Trump remarks

LONDON

Ed Davey, leader of the Liberal Democrats, said on Monday that the British government should reconsider the proposed April visit by King Charles to the United States.

Davey argued that the visit would place the British monarch — who serves as the country's ceremonial head of state — in the middle of an increasingly tense political dispute between London and Washington.

His comments come after repeated criticisms of Prime Minister Keir Starmer by President Trump. The U.S. leader had accused Starmer of damaging the long-standing Special Relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom after Britain initially blocked the U.S. from using British military bases for strikes against Iran.

Trump reportedly remarked that Starmer was not Winston Churchill and claimed the British prime minister had helped ruin the historic alliance between the two countries. The remarks intensified diplomatic friction at a time when tensions are already high due to ongoing conflicts in the Middle East.

The dispute follows another controversy earlier this year when Trump suggested that European forces had largely avoided frontline combat during the Afghanistan war. The statement prompted a rare public rebuke from Starmer, who described the comments as frankly appalling.

He noted that such remarks were deeply offensive to the families of the 457 British service personnel who lost their lives during the two-decade conflict in Afghanistan.

NATO launches Arctic military drills amid rising tensions over Greenland

HARSTAD

The Cold Response exercise, scheduled to run from March 9 to March 19, is designed to strengthen NATO's ability to defend its members in the European Arctic. The strategic region has gained increasing attention due to its proximity to Russia and the growing geopolitical competition for influence in the Arctic.

The drills are being conducted mainly in northern Norway and Finland, both of which share borders with Russia and play a critical role in NATO's northern defence strategy. This year's exercise will involve approximately 25,000 troops from around 14 participating nations, including the United States and Denmark.Officials said the exercise will focus not only on traditional military operations but also on the role civilians play in supporting defence efforts during crises. This includes coordination between military forces, local authorities, and civilian infrastructure to maintain supply chains and emergency services during potential conflicts.Cold Response is now integrated into NATO's broader Arctic Sentry mission, an initiative aimed at strengthening the alliance's presence and operational readiness in the polar region. The mission was launched partly to ease tensions sparked by renewed political debate over Greenland's strategic importance.U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly argued that the United States needs control of Greenland to counter potential threats from Russia and China in the Arctic. According to Trump, the island's strategic location and natural resources make it crucial for future security and military positioning. However, both Denmark and Greenland's government have firmly rejected the idea of any U.S. takeover. Leaders in Copenhagen and Nuuk have reiterated that Greenland is not for sale and remains an autonomous territory within the Kingdom of Denmark.Despite the political disagreements, both Denmark and the United States are participating in the Cold Response drills alongside other NATO allies. The United States is expected to deploy around 4,000 troops for the exercise.

Blast damages Synagogue in Belgium's Liege in 'anti-Semitic' attack

LIEGE

The explosion occurred at around 4 a.m. local time (0300 GMT), sending shockwaves through the neighbourhood and shattering windows at the synagogue as well as in a building across the street.

According to Belgian public broadcaster RTBF, the force of the blast blew out several windows and caused structural damage to the targeted site.

Belgian Interior Minister Bernard Quintin strongly condemned the incident, describing it as a despicable antisemitic act aimed directly at the Jewish community in Belgium. Authorities are treating the blast as a deliberate attack and have begun an investigation to determine those responsible.

Quintin also announced that security measures around Jewish institutions and other potentially vulnerable sites across the country would be

strengthened in response to the incident. Police and security services are expected to increase patrols and surveillance to prevent further attacks.

Leaders of Belgium's Jewish community expressed deep concern and shock following the explosion. Eitan Bergman, Vice-President of the Coordinating Committee of Jewish Organisations in Belgium (CCOJB), said the attack had shaken members of the community, particularly because Liege is home to a relatively small but closely connected Jewish population.

Bergman noted that the synagogue plays an important role in the local Jewish community, serving as a place of worship and gathering for residents. Liege is home to a very small but vibrant Jewish community where I personally grew up, he said, adding that the incident has left community members feeling saddened, worried and deeply shocked.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

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	1		9			3		
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	5		6			4		

9	8	6	3	2	4	1	5	7
1	2	4	7	5	9	3	6	8
5	3	7	8	6	1	4	2	9
4	1	3	2	8	5	9	7	6
6	9	5	1	7	3	2	8	4
2	7	8	9	4	6	5	1	3
3	4	2	6	1	7	8	9	5
8	6	9	5	3	2	7	4	1
7	5	1	4	9	8	6	3	2

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

Clashes Erupt at Ibrox as Celtic Beat Rangers in Scottish Cup Quarter-Final

Violence broke out at Ibrox Stadium in Glasgow after Celtic defeated Rangers in the Scottish Cup quarter-final, triggering chaotic scenes involving rival supporters

GLASGOW

The highly anticipated clash between Scotland's biggest football rivals, Celtic and Rangers, ended in dramatic fashion as Celtic secured a 4–2 victory in a penalty shootout after the match finished goalless during regular time. The intense encounter was played in front of nearly 50,000 spectators at Rangers' home ground, Ibrox Stadium, in Glasgow.

However, the match was overshadowed by ugly scenes that unfolded immediately after the final whistle. Supporters from both sides rushed onto the pitch, with several fans throwing flares and other objects across the field. Some individuals were seen covering their faces as tensions escalated between rival groups.

Police officers and stadium stewards quickly moved in to form a barrier between the opposing fans in an attempt to prevent further clashes. Meanwhile, players from both teams hurried off the pitch as security personnel worked to regain control of the situation.

Authorities later confirmed that several individuals were arrested following the incident. Police Scotland strongly condemned the disorder, describing the behaviour as unacceptable and dangerous.

Chief Superintendent Kate Stephen issued a statement on the official Police Scotland website criticising the disturbances. She described the scenes as shameful and confirmed that both officers and members of the public had been injured during the confrontation. Officers and members of the public have been injured in this despicable display and I want to express my thanks to all officers and staff deployed, Stephen said.

She added that investigations were already underway and that police would work closely with both football clubs and the Scottish Football Association to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident.

A number of arrests have already been made, and Police Scotland will now work with both clubs and the Scottish Football Association to carry out a robust investigation following the scenes on the pitch at the conclusion of the match, she said.

The latest clash highlights ongoing concerns surrounding fan behaviour during the fiercely contested Old Firm derby, one of football's most intense rivalries. Authorities are expected to review security arrangements and take further action following the investigation.

LUKA DONČIĆ

Scores 35 as Lakers Beat Knicks 110–97 Despite LeBron's Absence

LOS ANGELES

Luka Doncic delivered a standout performance with 35 points as the Los Angeles Lakers secured a 110–97 victory over the New York Knicks

The Lakers maintained control throughout the contest, producing a wire-to-wire victory over the Knicks even in the absence of their star forward LeBron James. The veteran sat out the game after also missing Friday's win over the Indiana Pacers, marking the first time this season he has missed consecutive games. Earlier in the campaign, James had been sidelined for the first 14 games due to sciatica affecting his back and leg.

In his absence, Luka Dončić stepped up to lead the Lakers' offence with an impressive 35-point display. The guard played a pivotal role in the third quarter, where he scored 14 points and helped the Lakers pull away from their opponents.

The Lakers entered the second half with a modest advantage before dominating the third quarter. Dončić spearheaded a strong offensive push as Los Angeles outscored New York 34–20 in the period. His scoring burst came during a decisive 20–8 run over the final seven minutes of the quarter, transforming a 68–61 lead into a commanding 88–69 advantage heading into the final period.

Dončić finished the night shooting 11 of 25 from the field and added two three-pointers during the crucial third-quarter surge. His ability to control the tempo and deliver key baskets helped the Lakers build a comfortable cushion.

However, the Lakers experienced some struggles in the fourth quarter after taking their large lead into the final period. The team went cold offensively, missing 10 consecutive shots as the Knicks attempted to reduce the deficit.

The scoring drought finally ended when Dončić banked in a layup to extend the Lakers' lead to 104–91 with just over two minutes remaining. The Slovenian star then sealed the victory by knocking down another three-pointer with 65 seconds left on the clock.

Despite the late-game lull, the Lakers' strong performance in the earlier quarters proved enough to secure a convincing win, with Dončić's leadership and scoring proving decisive in guiding the team past the Knicks.

Iraq Coach Graham Arnold Seeks Postponement of World Cup Playoff Amid Travel Disruptions

TEHRAN

The Iraqi team is scheduled to face either Bolivia national football team or Suriname national football team in Monterrey, Mexico, on March 31 in a high-stakes inter-confederation playoff. However, ongoing travel restrictions and airport closures in parts of the Middle East have raised serious concerns about whether players and staff will be able to travel in time for the fixture.

Coach Graham Arnold said the current situation could prevent several key players from joining the squad if travel routes remain disrupted. He warned that assembling a team consisting only of players based outside Iraq would significantly weaken the side ahead of one of the most important matches in the nation's football history.

It wouldn't be our best team and we need our best team available for the country's biggest game in 40 years, Arnold told the Australian Associated Press from his home in the United Arab Emirates.

The Australian coach emphasised the emotional significance of the match for Iraqi fans and the country's football community. Iraq has not qualified for the FIFA World Cup since 1986, and the upcoming playoff represents a rare opportunity to return to the global tournament.

The Iraqi people are so passionate about the game of football that it is insane. The fact that they haven't qualified for 40 years is probably the main reason I took this job, Arnold said.

He added that the team management is currently exploring possible alternatives to overcome the travel challenges. With airports affected by regional instability, officials are working to identify alternative routes or solutions that would allow the full squad to reach Mexico in time for the match.

The Iraqi football federation is expected to remain in discussions with international football authorities regarding the situation. Arnold expressed hope that a practical solution, including a possible postponement of the playoff if necessary, could be reached to ensure fair competition and allow Iraq to field its strongest team in the decisive encounter.

The Buffalo Sabres staged a dramatic comeback to defeat the Tampa Bay Lightning 8–7 in a high-scoring NHL clash, with Josh Doan netting the decisive power-play goal in the closing stages

Sabres Edge Lightning 8–7 in Thriller; Penguins Rally to Beat Bruins in Overtime

BUFFALO

In one of the most dramatic games of the season, Buffalo overcame two separate two-goal deficits and survived a chaotic third period to secure the narrow victory. The Sabres initially appeared in control after building a 4–1 lead, but Tampa Bay mounted an impressive comeback by scoring five unanswered goals, turning the game on its head with a 6–4 advantage early in the final period.

The momentum continued to swing as both teams traded goals before Buffalo launched a late surge. The Sabres scored three goals in just 4 minutes and 40 seconds to reclaim the lead and ultimately seal the win. Josh Doan's second power-play goal proved decisive in capping the frantic contest.

Buffalo received strong offensive contributions throughout the lineup. Alex Tuch and Jason Zucker each scored twice, while Sam Carrick and Rasmus Dahlin also found the net. Bowen Byram provided key support with three assists, and Tage Thompson delivered an outstanding playmaking performance with four assists, extending his points streak to 11 games with six goals and nine assists during that span.

Despite the loss, Tampa Bay produced a strong attacking display. Nikita Kucherov led the Lightning with two goals and an assist, while J.J. Moser contributed a goal and two assists. Goals also came from Corey Perry, Zemgus Girgensons, Brayden Point and Brandon Hagel, while Darren Raddysh recorded three assists.

In another thrilling NHL contest, the Pittsburgh Penguins defeated the Boston Bruins 5–4 in overtime after staging a remarkable comeback from a 3–0 deficit.

Tommy Novak scored the winning goal just 17 seconds into overtime. The decisive moment came after Egor Chinakhov forced a turnover, drove toward the net and battled for possession, allowing Novak to charge down the slot and bury the loose puck.

Anthony Mantha played a crucial role in the comeback by scoring twice in the third period, while Chinakhov and Connor Dewar also added goals for Pittsburgh. Novak finished the game with a goal and an assist as the Penguins completed a dramatic turnaround victory.

Italy's Simone Ferrari Ruled Out of Six Nations Finale Against Wales with Neck Injury

ITALY

Ferrari, a key member of Italy's forward pack, sustained the injury during Italy's landmark 23–18 victory over England at the Stadio Olimpico in Rome on Saturday. The 31-year-old prop started the match but was forced to leave the field in the 51st minute due to the neck problem.

The tighthead prop has been an important figure for Italy throughout this year's Six Nations campaign, starting all four matches played so far. His presence in the front row has been central to Italy's strong scrummaging performances during the tournament.

Italy's victory over England marked a historic milestone for the national side, as it was the first time they had defeated England in the Six Nations. The win followed another impressive result earlier in the championship, when Italy secured a victory over Scotland in their opening match.

Ferrari's absence will be a setback for Italy as they prepare for their final fixture of the tournament. The coaching staff are expected to choose between Muhamed Hasa and Mirco Spagnolo as a replacement for the injured prop.

Italy will travel to Cardiff on Saturday for the decisive encounter against Wales, with the team aiming to achieve another historic milestone by winning three matches in a single Six Nations campaign for the first time.

Travis Kelce Considering 14th NFL Season, Open to Playing for Another Team

KANSAS CITY

Kelce, who will turn 37 in October, has been one of the most accomplished tight ends in NFL history. Since being drafted by the Kansas City Chiefs in the third round of the 2013 NFL Draft, he has become a cornerstone of the team's offence and a key contributor to their sustained success.

Over the course of his career, Kelce has been selected to 11 Pro Bowls and earned four first-team All-Pro honours, cementing his reputation as one of the league's most dominant players at his position. However, the veteran has been carefully considering his future in the league and has reportedly debated retirement during each of the past two offseasons.

A new factor has emerged this year as Kelce becomes an unrestricted free agent after completing a two-year contract extension worth $34.25 million. With the deal now expired, his representatives are expected to explore discussions with multiple teams regarding potential opportunities for the upcoming season.

The Kansas City Chiefs, meanwhile, are adopting a patient approach as they await Kelce's decision. The franchise is currently managing salary-cap constraints and has indicated that it is prepared for either outcome — whether Kelce decides to retire or return for another season.

Chiefs general manager Brett Veach said the team has been planning for both possibilities while maintaining open communication with the player and his representatives.

We've kind of prepared for either scenario, Veach said at the NFL Scouting Combine on February 24. We're trying to position ourselves that either way, we have a plan moving forward.

Veach also confirmed that he planned to meet with Kelce's representatives after the combine to discuss the situation further. While acknowledging the need to establish a clear timeline and deadline for a decision, he described the discussions with Kelce's camp as positive.

As one of the most respected veterans in the league, Kelce's next move will be closely watched by teams and fans alike. Whether he continues his career with Kansas City or explores opportunities elsewhere, his decision is expected to have significant implications for the upcoming NFL season.

Coco Gauff Retires Hurt from Indian Wells Clash Against Alex Eala

CALIFORNIA

The unexpected retirement marked only the second time in Coco Gauff's professional career that she has been forced to withdraw from a match. The 21-year-old American, considered one of the favourites to win the title in California, took a medical timeout before the final game of the contest.

Despite the treatment, Gauff decided she could not continue and approached Alex Eala at the net to concede the match. She apologized to her opponent while acknowledging the strong performance from the Filipino player.

I'm sorry. You were playing great, Gauff told Eala as the two shared a brief embrace following the withdrawal.

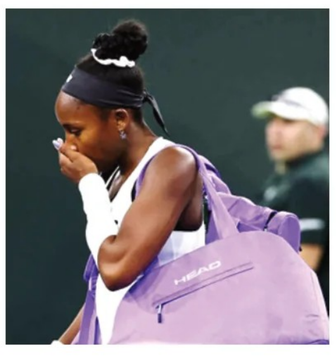
The early exit came as a surprise given Gauff's recent dominance over Eala. Just three weeks earlier, the American had defeated the same opponent convincingly in the quarter-finals of the Dubai tournament with a 6–0, 6–2 scoreline.

Following the match, Gauff explained that the pain in her arm was sudden and intense, describing the experience as alarming.

It felt like a firework was going off inside of my arm, and then my whole arm felt like it was on fire, she said while speaking to reporters after the match.

The two-time major champion added that doctors suspect the issue could be related to a nerve problem, though further tests are needed to determine the exact cause.

We're going to figure out what it is tomorrow, but based on the feeling, I'm being told that it's probably something nerve-related, Gauff said.



She admitted that the unusual sensation left her worried, noting that she had never experienced anything similar before.

Never felt a sensation like this before, she added, describing the situation as scary.

Gauff's only previous retirement from a professional match occurred in 2022 during a tournament in Cincinnati.

-1,352.74 PTS SENSEX 77,566.16 | -422.40 PTS NIFTY 24,028.05 | +0.3361 PAISE USD/INR 92.237 | -₹196 GOLD 16,168/1GM | -₹5000 SILVER 2,80,000/1KG

QUICK READ

India has 74-day reserves of oil, petroleum products: Min

New Delhi

India currently has a total capacity for storage of crude oil and petroleum products for 74 days, which can help to tide over disruptions in case of adverse situations such as geopolitical conflicts, the Parliament was informed on Monday. The government has established Strategic Petroleum Reserves facilities with a total capacity of 5.33 million metric tonnes (MMT), which can act as a buffer for short-term supply shocks such as geopolitical conflicts. This is meant to provide for about 9.5 days of crude oil requirement. In addition, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in the country have storage facilities for crude oil and petroleum products for 64.5 days. Hence, the current total national capacity for storage of crude oil and petroleum products is 74 days, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi told the Rajya Sabha in a written reply.

Pakistan's war on Afghanistan casts shadow over IMF funding

Islamabad

Pakistan's raging war across the border with Afghanistan has put in danger the next instalment of the IMF funding that Islamabad so desperately needs, according to a media article. The IMF team is currently visiting Pakistan for its third-round review of the country's economy, ahead of the next tranche of funding. The team is looking closely at whether the economic decisions that Islamabad is taking meet the requirements that have been fixed by the multilateral lending institution to ensure that Pakistan's economy recovers so that it is in a position to repay the loans, according to the article in the South China Morning Post.

3,200 MSMEs in Ahmedabad receive ₹62.83 cr interest subsidy

'MSME units play a crucial role in generating employment opportunities while requiring relatively low investment'

GANDHINAGAR

Responding to a question during the Assembly session, Minister of State for Industries Dr. Jayram Gamit said the financial assistance was provided to strengthen MSMEs, which he described as a vital driver of the state's economic and social development.

He noted that MSME units play a crucial role in generating employment opportunities while requiring relatively low investment. According to the minister, the government has introduced several incentives to promote and support these enterprises through the Atmanirbhar Gujarat Scheme–2022.

MSME units play an important role in the economic and social development of the state. These units generate greater employment with relatively low investment, and to encourage them, financial assistance is provided under the Atmanirbhar Gujarat Scheme–2022, Gamit told the Assembly.

The minister informed the House that a total of 3,283 applications for interest subsidy were approved in Ahmedabad district during the past year. As a result, ₹6,283.20 lakh, equivalent to ₹62.83 crore, was disbursed to eligible MSME units as part of the scheme's support measures.

Providing an overview of the MSME landscape in the district, Gamit said Ahmedabad currently has more than 5.99 lakh registered MSME units. These include 5,85,175 micro enterprises, 13,029 small enterprises and 1,218 medium enterprises, highlighting the district's strong entrepreneurial ecosystem.

He also presented a taluka-wise breakdown of the subsidy distribution. Beneficiaries in Ahmedabad taluka received the highest amount of ₹3,501.67 lakh. This was followed by ₹1,820.63 lakh distributed in Daskroi taluka, ₹644.85 lakh in Sanand, and ₹262.20 lakh in Bavla. Smaller allocations included ₹40.21 lakh in Dhandhuka and ₹13.64 lakh in Viramgam.

Gamit further highlighted that the MSME sector in Ahmedabad district has attracted significant investment in recent times. In 2025 alone, a total of 2,844 new MSME units were established in the district, bringing in fresh investments worth ₹5,619.80 crore.

He said this surge in new enterprises and investments is making a substantial contribution to Gujarat's industrial growth and strengthening the state's position as a major hub for small and medium-scale industries.

India emerges as a strategic partner for EU: Report

India's relationship with Germany and the European Union (EU) has evolved from primarily trade-based ties into a broader strategic partnership encompassing economics

NEW DELHI

An article published in India Narrative noted that recent high-level diplomatic engagements and upgraded partnership frameworks between India and several European countries have significantly strengthened the relationship.

Nations such as Germany, France, Italy, and Finland, along with the leadership of the European Union, have expanded cooperation with India beyond traditional trade and economic exchanges.

The report said these developments have effectively positioned Europe as India's second strategic theatre, complementing the core Indo-Pacific security network anchored by the Quad grouping. Historically, India's engagement with Europe was dominated by trade, development assistance, and diaspora-related political interactions. However, the relationship has now broadened to include strategic sectors such as technology supply chains, defence co-production, clean energy transition, and collaborative efforts in the Indo-Pacific region.

Over the past five years, the EU has increasingly viewed India as a key stabilising force in global affairs and an important voice representing the Global South. This shift in perception was highlighted by the European Commission's College of Commissioners making an unprecedented visit to India in February 2025, signalling Brussels' growing strategic engagement with New Delhi.

At the same time, several EU member states have intensified their bilateral partnerships with India. France has elevated its ties with India to a Special Global Strategic Partnership, while Germany is marking 25 years of its strategic partnership with New Delhi. Italy has unveiled an ambitious Joint Strategic Action Plan for the 2025–2029 period, and Finland has strengthened its strategic partnership through a series of high-level ministerial and presidential visits in early 2026.

According to the article written by Anushree Dutta, this multi-layered engagement has created an overlapping framework of cooperation. EU-level agreements focus on trade, digital connectivity, and infrastructure initiatives, while individual member states pursue deeper collaboration with India in defence, industrial development, and technology sectors.

The report also highlighted that Germany's relationship with India, historically based on economic complementarity, is increasingly shifting toward a strategic partnership centred on industrial collaboration and green energy transition. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's visit to India in January 2026 was seen as a clear signal that Berlin considers New Delhi a key Indo-Pacific partner rather than merely an emerging market.

Manchester-bound flight returns to origin amid closures in Middle East

NEW DELHI

IndiGo's Manchester-bound aircraft that departed from Delhi returned to its origin after spending almost seven hours in the air due to sudden airspace restrictions linked to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, the low-cost airline confirmed on Monday. According to an IndiGo spokesperson, flight 6E033 -- operating from Delhi to Manchester -- had to return due to last-minute airspace restrictions. Due to the evolving situation in and around the Middle East, some of our flights may take longer routes or experience diversions, the official said.

No major impact on India due to rise in global oil price: FM

NEW DELHI

Responding to a question in the Lok Sabha, the Finance Minister said crude oil prices had been declining over the past year until geopolitical tensions in West Asia triggered a sudden surge. She explained that the escalation began on February 28, 2026, when the United States and Israel launched military strikes on Iran, leading to a broader conflict in the region.

According to Sitharaman, the price of crude oil in the Indian basket increased sharply following the outbreak of hostilities. Between the end of February and March 2, 2026, crude prices rose from $69.01 per barrel to $80.16 per barrel. Despite this spike, she indicated that the immediate impact on India's inflation is expected to remain limited.

Given that India's inflation is near the lower bound, the impact on inflation is not estimated to be substantial at this point, the Finance Minister told Parliament.

Global crude oil prices have been climbing since late February as tensions in the Middle East intensified. After the initial strikes by the US and Israel, Iran responded with retaliatory drone and missile attacks targeting US military bases in the region, raising concerns about disruptions to global energy supplies.

Sitharaman referred to the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Report released in October 2025, which had assessed the potential impact of higher oil prices on inflation. The report estimated that if crude oil prices rise by 10 per cent above the baseline assumptions, and if the increase is fully passed on to domestic consumers, inflation could increase by around 30 basis points.

However, she noted that the medium-term effect of global crude price fluctuations on domestic inflation depends on several factors. These include exchange rate movements, global demand and supply conditions, the effectiveness of monetary policy transmission, the prevailing inflation environment, and the degree to which higher crude costs are passed through indirectly into the economy.

The Finance Minister also highlighted the recent improvement in India's inflation trends. Average retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), declined from 5.4 per cent in 2023–24 to 4.6 per cent in 2024–25. It further dropped to 1.8 per cent during the April–January period of the 2025–26 financial year, indicating a steady easing of price pressures in the economy.

Govt buys back ₹6,309 cr of securities via RBI Switch Auction

MUMBAI

Government securities, commonly referred to as G-Secs, are debt instruments issued by the government to raise funds from the market. These securities are considered low-risk investments as they carry a sovereign guarantee and generally provide fixed returns to investors.

According to the government, the bonds repurchased in the latest switch auction were part of securities scheduled to mature in the next financial year. Through this operation, the government effectively replaced near-term liabilities with bonds that mature over a longer time horizon.

The securities bought back included ₹1,684 crore of 7.33 per cent GS 2026, ₹1,035 crore of 5.74 per cent GS 2026, ₹590 crore of 8.15 per cent GS 2026, and ₹3,000 crore of 8.24 per cent GS 2027.

In return, the government issued longer-duration bonds to investors. These included ₹1,719.236 crore of 6.57 per cent GS 2033, ₹986.526 crore of 7.62 per cent GS 2039, ₹605.609 crore of another tranche of 6.57 per cent GS 2033, and ₹3,120.426 crore of 7.40 per cent GS 2062.

A switch auction is a mechanism that allows the government to exchange bonds that are close to maturity with new bonds that have a longer maturity period. This strategy helps the government manage its debt profile more efficiently by spreading out repayment obligations over time rather than concentrating them within a short period.

Such operations are also aimed at reducing near-term pressure on the government's finances while maintaining liquidity and stability in the bond market. By extending the maturity profile of its debt, the government can better align repayment schedules with long-term fiscal planning.

The latest operation marks the fourth switch auction conducted by the RBI since February as part of the government's ongoing debt management strategy. Three similar auctions had already been held earlier, reflecting a continued effort to smoothen the redemption profile of government securities and ensure orderly management of public debt.

India's IT sector faces a 14-16% AI driven deflation

NEW DELHI

India's IT sector faces a 14-16% AI driven deflation but robust US corporate earnings in Q4 2025 and incremental investment could offset much of the hit, a report said on Monday.

The report from HSBC Global Investment Research said these factors could lead to mid-single digit 'net' growth for some IT companies on a net basis.

Top US corporate results (clients of Indian IT) remain robust in Q4 2025 and notably, the forward earnings expectations of the S&P 500 were upgraded further.

Improving business outlook and AI-led productivity gains should drive incremental investment in enterprise software migration, legacy tech modernisation and AI adoption, the report noted.

The research firm also predicted that Indian IT companies may shift away from 'beat-and-raise' guidance to more 'realistic to even aggressive' guidance.

For both the believers and sceptics of AI there remains a lack of substantial real-world tangible case studies to support claims of AI cannibalisation of traditional software, the report said, adding that the AI narrative and uncertainty are driving the stock valuation de-rating.

Unfortunately for the sector, there are no high-frequency data to counter the AI narrative, it said, pointing to FY27 guidance from major IT companies in April as the most important catalyst for the sector.

The macro backdrop is quite favourable for the sector as most top clients are reporting strong earnings. However, there could be some pause in spending due to the rapidly evolving frontier AI models and uncertainty around the adoption curve which could affect near-term demand, the firm forecasted.

Despite the short-term pressures on profitability, IT companies saw improving demand conditions in the December quarter, with artificial intelligence moving from experimentation to operational deployment and influencing deal pipelines and hiring.

Major IT companies have either revised or raised their revenue guidance for the year, while management commentary from other companies highlighted strong expectations around artificial intelligence-led growth.

Government assures raw material supply to highway builders amid disruption concerns

NEW DELHI

The government has assured highway construction companies that supplies of key raw materials such as bitumen, cement and diesel will remain adequate despite logistics disruptions linked to the US-Iran war, sources said.

Citing sources, a report from NDTV Profit said that officials from the National Highways Authority of India met with members of the National Highways Builders Federation after contractors raised concerns about delays in truck movements and ship offloading that have created bottlenecks in delivery of materials, sources said.

Consequently, several construction firms approached authorities and sought force majeure provisions in their contracts arguing that disruptions could impact project timelines and raise costs.

Sources mentioned provisions in infrastructure contracts that allow certain forms of relief in the event of extraordinary disruptions, which contractors are reportedly exploring.

As bitumen prices reportedly rose around Rs 2,000 per tonne, contractors are worried about margins.

Industry representatives also warned that higher diesel costs could pass through to cement and steel prices because fuel influences manufacturing and transportation expenses. So far, there has been no increase in diesel price.

Earlier, government sources said on Saturday that petrol and diesel prices will not increase, adding that India's energy stock position is improving and the situation is becoming more stable.

The improving energy stock situation has given the government greater confidence in managing fuel supplies. India has also taken steps to diversify its crude oil imports to reduce dependence on vulnerable routes.

India has increased its crude oil imports from sources other than the Strait of Hormuz. Earlier, about 60 per cent of India's crude oil imports came from sources outside the strategic shipping route, but that share has now increased to around 70 per cent, according to sources.

Government currently expects state-run oil marketing companies (OMCs) to absorb the impact for now and pump prices of fuels will remain the same, according to reports.

Domestic aviation stocks tumble over 8 pc as crude crosses $110

MUMBAI

Shares of Indian aviation companies on Monday witnessed heavy selling pressure as tensions in the Middle East escalated, pushing crude oil prices past the $110 per barrel mark after major producers reduced output while the Strait of Hormuz remained effectively closed due to the Iran conflict.

Several airline and helicopter service provider stocks declined sharply, including InterGlobe Aviation (IndiGo). IndiGo shares ended at Rs 4,236, down around 4 per cent on the BSE. The stock hit an intra-day low of Rs 4,035.65, plunging 8.37 per cent from last week's closing level.

Similarly, shares of SpiceJet declined 6.64 per cent to close at Rs 13.07 on the exchange. The scrip recorded an intraday low of Rs 12.85 on Monday, an 8.21 per cent fall from the previous close.

Meanwhile, shares of Fly-SBS Aviation -- listed in the SME category on the NSE -- closed around 5 per cent lower at Rs 433.35.

In contrast, shares of private helicopter operator, Global Vectra Helicorp, ended higher at Rs 158 on the BSE.

Equity benchmarks also witnessed selling across sectors, except for the technology index. Sensex plunged 1,352.74 points or 1.71 per cent to close at 77,566.16, while the Nifty 50 settled at 24,028.05, down 422.40 points or 1.73 per cent.

Jaipur Polo Team Wins SMS Gold Vase, Secures Ninth Title of the Season

The Jaipur Polo Team continued its impressive run this season as it clinched the prestigious SMS Gold Vase title with a narrow 6–5.5 victory over Krishna Polo in a thrilling final

JAIPUR

The final proved to be a fiercely competitive encounter, with both teams exchanging momentum across the chukkers. Jaipur Polo began the match on a strong note, applying early attacking pressure to take a 2–1.5 lead at the end of the first chukker. However, Krishna Polo quickly responded in the second chukker, with Kr. Vishal Singh Rathore spearheading the comeback. His efforts helped Krishna Polo edge ahead to a narrow 3.5–3 lead at halftime.

Jaipur Polo regained control in the third chukker as they improved possession and capitalised on scoring opportunities. Leading from the front, HH Maharaja Sawai Padmanabh Singh delivered clinical finishes that helped Jaipur move ahead 5–3.5, shifting the momentum firmly in their favour.

Krishna Polo mounted a strong challenge in the final chukker, with goals from Kr. Vishal Singh Rathore and Rk. Sidhant Singh bringing the contest to a tense finish. Despite the pressure, Jaipur maintained their defensive discipline and composure in the closing stages, successfully managing the game to seal a 6–5.5 victory and lift the coveted SMS Gold Vase trophy.

Earlier in the semi-final clash against RPC, Jaipur Polo staged a remarkable comeback after falling behind early in the match. RPC dominated the first chukker and built a commanding 3.5–1 lead. Jaipur gradually fought back in the second chukker with goals from Br. Harshodya Singh and Yogendra Singh, narrowing the gap and trailing 4.5–4 at halftime.

The turning point came in the third chukker when Jaipur strengthened its defence and took control of possession. Goals from Kr. Divyamaan Singh Dujod and HH Maharaja Sawai Padmanabh Singh helped Jaipur take a narrow 5–4.5 lead.

Carrying this momentum into the final chukker, Jaipur extended their advantage to 8–5.5, confirming their place in the final. For Jaipur, Br. Harshodya Singh and Yogendra Singh scored two goals each, while Kr. Divyamaan Singh Dujod added one goal.

'Not every inspiring sporting story ends with a trophy': Bindra hails Lakshya

NEW DELHI

Even in defeat, Lakshya Sen has captured admiration across the sporting world, earning praise from Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra for his resilience at the All England Open 2026.

Sen went down 21-15, 22-20 to Lin Chun-Yi of Chinese Taipei in the men's singles final, settling for a silver medal. Despite the loss, Bindra highlighted the qualities Sen displayed on the court.

Not every inspiring sporting story ends with a trophy. Over the last few days, Lakshya Sen has shown India what courage, resilience and belief truly look like, Bindra wrote on X.

Bindra's tribute underscored that Sen's journey was about more than the scoreline. His run to another All England final, through extraordinary wins and immense physical pain, has been about far more than a result, he said, praising the 24-year-old for his grit and determination.

The Olympic champion also emphasised the lesson Sen provides to the next generation of Indian athletes: He has reminded young India that greatness lies not only in winning, but in the honesty of effort, the dignity of the fight and the strength to keep believing.

Concluding his post, Bindra expressed his personal pride in Sen, saying, I am Proud of you, @lakshya_sen. Very, very proud.

Sen spent over five hours on court in the earlier rounds and faced a tough challenge against the lightning-fast Lin. He started slowly in the first game, struggling with the depth of his lifts and tosses, allowing Lin to seize control and take the opening game.

In the second game, Sen raised his tempo, winning six consecutive points from 3-4 to lead 9-4. However, Lin gradually clawed back, engaging Sen in long rallies and ultimately converting his second match point to clinch the title. Lin became the first men's singles player from Chinese Taipei to win the prestigious tournament.

This marked Sen's second All England final appearance after 2022, highlighting his skill, determination, and resilience despite falling just short of the trophy.

INDIA T20 TRIUMPH

Suryakumar Yadav Calls T20 Win Wonderful Journey

AHMEDABAD

Reflecting on India's World Cup campaign, Suryakumar Yadav acknowledged that the tournament did not begin exactly as the team had hoped, but praised the squad's resilience and unity in overcoming early challenges.

Obviously, it has been a wonderful journey in the last one month. Though it didn't start the way we wanted it to start, but then it's part of the sport. Throughout the journey till today, it has been very special. And collectively as a team, what we've achieved, I think it's right in front of you. So very happy with that, Surya said while addressing the media at the post-match press conference.

Looking ahead, the Indian skipper made it clear that the team is already setting its sights on future milestones. He emphasised that winning an Olympic gold medal when cricket returns to the Games in Los Angeles in 2028 is a major objective, along with aiming for another T20 World Cup title.

Very happy with that. And as you rightly said, definitely the next goal is the Olympics Olympic Gold and also the 2028 World Cup. Don't forget, he added.

In the final, India produced a dominant all-round performance to overpower New Zealand. Batting first, India posted a massive 255 for 5, the highest total ever recorded in a T20 World Cup final. The innings was powered by a blistering knock from Sanju Samson, who smashed 89 runs off just 46 balls. He was well supported by Ishan Kishan, who scored 54, and Abhishek Sharma, who contributed a rapid 52.

Samson and Sharma laid a solid foundation with a 98-run opening partnership, setting the tone for India's big total. Later, Shivam Dube added a quick cameo in the closing overs to help the team cross the 250-run mark.

New Zealand, chasing a daunting target, struggled against India's disciplined bowling attack. Jasprit Bumrah spearheaded the bowling effort with an outstanding spell of 4 wickets for 15 runs, while Axar Patel chipped in with 3 for 27 to dismantle the top order. Although Tim Seifert fought hard with a valiant 52, wickets continued to fall at regular intervals as India maintained relentless pressure. The New Zealand innings eventually folded for 159 in 19 overs, handing India a commanding 96-run victory.

The triumph marked a historic achievement for India, making them the first team to retain the ICC Men's T20 World Cup title and the first to win the tournament three times. Under Suryakumar Yadav's leadership, the team delivered a comprehensive performance with both bat and ball, underlining India's dominance in the shortest format of the game.

Kerala Government to Honour Sanju Samson After India's T20 World Cup Triumph

Fresh from playing a decisive role in India's T20 World Cup triumph, Kerala's star cricketer Sanju Samson is set to receive a grand public reception from the Kerala Government led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

AHMEDABAD

Sanju Samson emerged as one of the key performers in India's commanding victory in the T20 World Cup final on Sunday. His dazzling knock in the title clash played a crucial role in anchoring India's imposing total, a fearless innings that has been widely hailed as one of the defining moments of the tournament.

Samson's explosive batting not only helped secure India's emphatic victory but also cemented his place among the country's World Cup heroes. Cricket fans across the country, especially in Kerala, celebrated the performance that showcased the wicketkeeper-batsman's composure and attacking flair on the biggest stage.

Announcing the felicitation, Education Minister V. Sivankutty said the Kerala Government intends to celebrate Samson's achievement in a fitting manner, recognising the pride he has brought to the state through his remarkable performance.

The state is proud of Sanju Samson's contribution to India's historic victory. His performance has inspired thousands of young cricketers in Kerala, the minister said.

Sivankutty, who also hails from the state capital Thiruvananthapuram, noted that Samson's journey from a local cricket enthusiast to an international star has become a source of motivation for aspiring athletes across the state.

Sanju Samson grew up in a modest coastal neighbourhood near the Trivandrum International Airport in Thiruvananthapuram, where he first developed his passion for cricket while playing on local grounds. His talent soon became evident as he progressed through age-group cricket and domestic tournaments.

Gautam Gambhir Dedicates India's T20 WC Triumph to Dravid, Laxman, Agarkar

AHMEDABAD

Addressing the media at the post-match press conference following India's title-winning performance, Gambhir said the trophy belonged not just to the current squad but also to those who helped build the team's strong foundation over the years.

First of all, I think I should dedicate this trophy to Rahul Bhai first and then Laxman Bhai because what Rahul Bhai has done to keep Indian cricket in such a good shape, I have to thank him for everything what he's done during his tenure, Gambhir said.

Rahul Dravid, who previously served as India's head coach, played a key role in shaping the current generation of players and establishing a stable structure within the team. Gambhir acknowledged that the systems put in place during Dravid's tenure helped ensure continuity and consistency in the national side.

Gambhir also praised VVS Laxman, who currently heads the BCCI's Centre of Excellence (CoE), highlighting his contribution in nurturing players and maintaining a steady pipeline of talent for the national team.

VVS Laxman for unconditionally doing so much for Indian cricket, especially behind the doors, because CoE remains the pipeline for Indian cricket, Gambhir said.

He noted that the work done at the Centre of Excellence often goes unnoticed but plays a crucial role in preparing players for international competition. According to Gambhir, the staff at the CoE have worked tirelessly to help players recover from injuries and return to match readiness. The India coach also acknowledged chief selector Ajit Agarkar and his selection panel for their commitment and honesty in building the squad.

Congratulations to ICC and my friend Jay Shah for another wonderfully organised T20 WC: Infantino

NEW DELHI

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 concluded on a high note with India securing a historic victory in the final, capping off an exciting tournament that drew widespread global attention. Following the conclusion of the tournament, FIFA President Gianni Infantino extended his congratulations to ICC chairman Jay Shah, acknowledging the successful staging of the event and its significance for international sport.

Infantino commended the ICC leadership for organising a tournament that showcased the growing popularity and competitiveness of cricket on the world stage. In his message, he recognised the efforts of the ICC and its leadership in delivering a high-quality global event that captivated fans and demonstrated the sport's expanding global reach.

The tournament saw teams from across the cricketing world compete in an intense month-long contest that featured thrilling matches, standout performances and record-breaking moments. India's eventual triumph in the final added a historic chapter to the nation's cricketing legacy and highlighted the team's dominance in the shortest format of the game.

Under the leadership of ICC chairman Jay Shah, the governing body has worked to expand cricket's global footprint and strengthen international competitions.

You performed when it mattered the most – Virat Kohli hails Sanju Samson

MUMBAI

virat.kohli 1m
What a remarkable tournament from the most well deserved man of the tournament @imsanjusamson . You performed when it mattered the most. Really happy for you chetta.
SANJU SAMSON
PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

Legendary cricketer Virat Kohli on Sunday heaped praises on India's wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson for his phenomenal performance in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup triumph, for which he was adjudged the Player of the Tournament.

Samson, who came into the playing XI as a replacement player as the top-order was not producing the desired runs because of Abhishek Sharma's poor run of scores, struck half-centuries in three successive matches as India fought back from the brink of elimination to clinch a historic third title in the T20 World Cup. India also became the first nation to win back-to-back titles and to triumph on home soil.

And Samson played a key role in the historic triumph, and Virat Kohli highlighted his contribution in a social media post on Sunday night.

What a remarkable tournament from the most well-deserved Man of the Tournament @imsanjusamson. You performed when it mattered the most. Really happy for you, Chetta, wrote Kohli in his Instagram story that was accompanied by a poster by ICC declaring Samson as the Player of the Tournament.

Samson really turned out to be the star of the campaign for India. He first rescued the team with a masterful unbeaten 97 against the West Indies that helped India emerge victorious in the do-or-die Super 8 stage match.

He then scored 89 in the semifinal against England, which laid the foundation of India's massive score of 253/7 against England at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, as India won by seven runs.

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